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BAPTIST INFORMER

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Publication of the General Baptist State Convention of N.C., Inc.
Voice of 500,000 North Carolina Baptists

January 2003

The Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Missionary Convention Was Named After Lott Carey: A Slave, Missionary and Colonial Leader

By Archie D. Logan, Jr.
Executive Secretary-Treasurer

Lott Carey was born a slave in 1780, on the estate of William A. Christian, located about thirty miles from Richmond, Virginia. Though his parents



Dr. Archie Logan, Jr.

were illiterate, Lott Carey's father was a respected member of the local white Baptist Church. When he was twenty-four, Lott Carey was hired out as a laborer in the Shockhoe tobacco warehouse in Richmond. We do not have

much information on his early life; however, records indicate that as a young man he was "profane and given to drunkenness". He was adventurous and fun loving.

In 1807 Lott Carey was converted and joined the First Baptist Church of Richmond. Hearing a sermon, on John the 3rd Chapter, caused Lott Carey to want to learn to read the story of Nicodemus for himself. Soon he learned to read and was licensed to preach by the church. Other African-Americans of the time became literate by learning to read the Bible. Laws in southern states denied educational opportunities for blacks.

Lott Carey was an excellent worker at the Shockhoe tobacco warehouse, and his efficiency, faithfulness and literacy soon earned him a promotion to shipping clerk. The merchants often rewarded him with an extra \$5.00 and allowed him to collect and sell the waste pieces of tobacco. Carey married and had two children. 1813 public records indicate that his wife

died. Around that time Lott Carey was able to purchase his freedom and that of his young children with \$850.00 he had saved.

Lott Carey was a free "Minister of the Gospel". He preached to the slave population in and around Richmond while continuing to work in the tobacco warehouse. He purchased a home for \$1,500.00 and saw that his children received an education. During this same time William Crane, an abolitionist from New Jersey, came to Richmond and took an interest in the young blacks of the town. In 1815, Lott Carey remarried. By 1820 he was receiving an annual salary of \$800. Crane worked with Lott Carey to organize the "Richmond African Missionary Society". The Society collected funds for mission work in Africa and within five years had collected over \$700.00. The Richmond Society worked with the Triennial Baptist Convention and the American Colonization Society in sending missionaries to Africa. Lott Carey became very interested in foreign mission work and felt a need for people on the continent.

Lott Carey and Collin Teague, another Richmond free black, were chosen as missionaries to Africa. When Carey announced he was going to Africa as a missionary, his employers at the tobacco warehouse offered him a \$200.00 annual increase if he would stay on the job. Carey refused; he wanted to help those in greater need and serve humanity where his color was not a hindrance to ministry service. He was eager to preach the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in Africa. He believed in the scripture, Matthew 28:18-20, "And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the

name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.' Amen."

Shortly before Carey, Teague, and their families departed for Africa, William Crane gathered them and a few Baptists in the upper room of his Richmond home. They organized the emigrants into the First Baptist Church of Monrovia, Liberia and



Lott Carey

gave them documents to set up permanent African congregations. On January 16, 1821, they set sail from Norfolk, Virginia for West Africa. During the forty-four day journey across the Atlantic Ocean the missionaries held regular worship services and made plans for their new ministry. Lott Carey's second wife became ill during the voyage to Africa. At the beginning of March they joined the other settlers of the American Colonization Society at Sierra Leone. Soon after their arrival, Lott Carey's second wife died.

Lott Carey spent the majority of his time in missionary work among the people of rural Sierra Leone. While others helped establish a Christian community in the colony, records indicate that in 1822 Lott Carey moved to Monrovia. There he established the first Baptist church in Liberia, Providence Baptist Church, and ministered to the congregation as well as to rural tribes. One African named "John" walked 80 miles to Monrovia from Cape Mount, adjacent to Sierra

Leone to meet and work with Lott Carey. John had first been evangelized by the British but wanted to learn more about Christianity. Under Lott Carey's ministry he was converted and baptized. He returned to his people with Bibles and hymnals to start a Christian ministry in Cape Mount.

Reverend Carey preached several times a week at the church and gave religious instruction to the African school age children in and around Monrovia. He used his own money and resources to maintain a weekday charity school in Monrovia and established a school with John's assistance at Big Town in the Cape Mount region. Moslems of the Mandingo tribe raised a great deal of opposition to the school, but Carey worked to see the school completed. It was a 15 by 30-foot school which soon had thirty-seven children enrolled. Reverend Carey found a teacher, whom he paid \$20.00 a month. He requested friends in the States to send suits of clothes "as soon as practicable", since school regulations encouraged the children to wear appropriate clothes!

New missionaries came to Africa. When 105 new settlers arrived in Monrovia in February 1823, many of them were sick with a fever, and there was no physician available. Though not a doctor, Lott Carey used his common sense and knowledge of African herbs to nurse many of the people back to health. He had nursed his own sick wife before her death.

In 1823-24 Reverend Carey became the leader of a resistance movement against Jehudi Ashmun and Liberia's colonial authorities. The settlers were dissatisfied with the distribution of town lots in Monrovia. Reverend Carey sided with the insurrectionists. An armed ves-

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sel of the United States was sent to assist the settlers and deal with the situation in the summer of 1824. After an investigation, Jehudi Ashmun was retained as a colonial agent. The American Colonization Society reprimanded Reverend Carey for his actions in the insurrection. He was forbidden to preach until "time and circumstance had evinced the deepness and sincerity of his repentance". Reverend Lott Carey was truly repentant that he had encouraged the rebellion, feeling that he had "inflicted in his character a wound that could not be healed in this world, and betrayed the

great confidence reposed in him".

As vice agent, Lott Carey was given the responsibility of caring for freed slaves, who purchased their freedom or escaped runaway slaves, arriving from the United States. Many freemen and their families selected to return to Africa rather than face racism in America. In Sierra Leone, Trade Town, was a slave market located near the colony, and some of the American runaway slaves were recaptured from there and given their freedom in Liberia.

In 1828, Jehudi Ashmun returned to America, leaving the government of Liberia in Lott Carey's hands. Ashmun urged Reverend Carey to become the per-

manent agent for the colony. Before Carey could assume a larger role in the colony, a tragic accident occurred, he was mortally wounded in a munitions explosion. Reverend Lott Carey, first Missionary to Africa, died November 10, 1828.

Lott Carey's Steadfast Resolve

"This step is not taken to promote my own fortune, nor am I influenced by any sudden impulse. I have counted the cost and have sacrificed all my worldly possessions to this undertaking. I am prepared to meet imprisonment or even death in carrying out the purpose of my heart. It may be that I shall behold you no more

on this side of the grave, but I feel bound to labor for my brothers, perishing as they are in the far distant land of Africa. For their sake and for Christ's sake I am happy in leaving all and venturing all."

— Lott Carey's words before sailing for Africa

Sixty years after Lott Carey's death, African-American Baptists in America established the Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Convention, now based in Washington, D. C.

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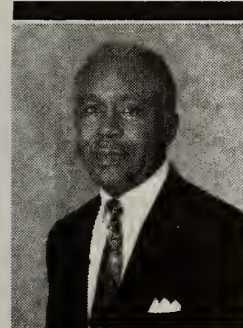
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A New Beginning

By Dr. Charles T. Bullock

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (John 1:1).

The month of January begins a new calendar year, but it is the beginning of more than just a calendar year. As disciples of Christ, let us use the month of January and the year 2003 to begin a new year of a greater commitment to Christ, his mission and ministry, a determination for deeper worship



Dr. Charles Bullock

and witness. We have entered the New Year without passport or baggage checking. We did not have to use a visa to cross over into the New Year, nor did we have to leave behind anything we wanted to bring over.

We have, however, the opportunity of leaving behind the baggage that would cause us to worry over opportunities we never took, chances we let pass, or dreams we never followed. To continue to brood over decisions made that were not profitable rob us of the strength and vitality needed to accomplish that which God has purposed for us to accomplish. The Apostle Paul challenged us to "... forget those things which are behind, and reach for those things which are before." He challenged us as he to "... press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus"

(Philippians 3:14).

George Stewart put into words sentiments about this time of the year in an article entitled **Life's Unguarded Frontier**. He writes:

We are before another allotment of time, a new year with fresh, clean pages on

which we must write a record with fingers damaged by all our yesterdays. For

some, fingers are stiffed with age, cramped with rheumatic pains, for others

fingers have lost their cunning by negligence or have never gained skill because of lazy habits. Others must write with figures scarred by accident, twisted by too many heavy burdens still others must write with young fingers which have not yet learned the ways of toil and of life, fingers calloused of soft, young or old, serviceable or

ineffective, hands that tell our character and

our history as truly as our faces, our speech, or our hearts

Two thousand three provides clean pages for each of us to:

- Be better stewards of our time, talents and treasures.
- Increase our commitment to be more caring and sharing.
- Pray for and support local, state and world missions.
- Study and obey God's Word.
- Become more involved in the mission and ministry that God has provided through the General Baptist State Convention.

MAY GOD BLESS EACH OF YOU TO HAVE A BLESSED AND MEANINGFUL NEW YEAR!!

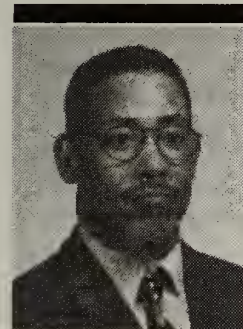
A Soldier's Story

By Reverend Dennis Leach, BS. M. Div.

To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:

A time of war, and a time of peace (Ecclesiastes 3:1,8b NRSV).

To all of you my General Baptist State Convention brothers and sisters, may the peace of God be with you throughout this new year. Occasionally, subjects and issues are placed upon your heart that weigh heavy upon your spirit, and that you personally feel unqualified



Rev. Dennis Leach

tary police at the gate, who happened to be white, refused to allow them to enter the base, because they were black. He said his unit sat all day in the hot July sun just outside of the base until late that evening when an executive order from the Pentagon in Washington, DC, granted them admittance. He then told me that he never forgot that event as well as his trip home after being discharged from the military. After the war, he was honorably discharged and taken to the train station where he boarded his train bound for North Carolina. He said he had gone just about all day without eating; he was so excited to be going home. When it was time for dinner, one of the attendants escorted him to the dining car, and sat him down at a particular table; where a white woman happened to be seated. He said: "Reverend Leach, as hungry as I was to this day I don't know if I ate anything, I was so afraid!"

Why was this deacon who had survived World War II so terrified? Well, being a son of the south he understood the cultural social dynamics that existed between the races in 1945. Deacon BW recognized that his being at that table with this woman was a possible death sentence for him. If at any point during that encounter, anyone to include that white woman had suggested that he offended her, he would have been beaten to death or lynched. Ten years later this racist cultural social reality for African Americans would be driven home in cruel fashion, when fourteen-year-old (14) Emmett Till was brutally slain in Mississippi after an encounter with a Caucasian woman. What actually happened is not clear, whether he winked,

whistled, smiled, or just spoke to her. What was clear is that this black man visiting Mississippi from Chicago was beaten beyond recognition by an angry group of white men. No one was ever convicted for that crime.

The unknown author (Teacher) of the Hebrew book of Ecclesiastes appears to literally, personally, religiously, and socially wrestle and struggle with the meaning, purpose, and value for the human existence. Using pendulum like logic he fluctuates between the negative and positive poles of existentialism, and secular life. As a sage, he offers his readers pearls of wisdom garnered over a lifetime of meditative reflection, and social observations. Often times while reading this book, you can detect an overwhelming negative undertone surrounding the futility of human labor and efforts. How does this wise, but seemingly ranting maniacal voice even make its way to us biblically? His life long observations seem to run counter "Christologically" to what the church believes today. During the course of his verbal tirades he arrives at several conclusions many of which are swallowed up in, or by, vanity's vacuum. His philosophy for life appears to be somewhat Epicurean in nature: "eat, drink, and be merry for tomorrow we die". In light of the positive focus of some current Christian movements, the writer of this book offers very little to celebrate considering the sum total of life, and its final outcome, which cannot be escaped. He makes several philosophical conjectures, and contrasts, the wise with the fool, the good with the evil, and justice with injustice. As it relates to the "teacher", aside from recognizing that

God does exist, death is certain, and we ought to enjoy and cherish life while we can, he offers us little or no hope beyond the grave. There are times when he uses morally lofty language to convey a grand ideological principle. And, then there are those unique times, when his words appear to transcend their generation and find relevance and focus in the social predicament of our nation today.

As a seventeen-year-old young black male I enlisted in the United States Army a little over thirty years ago. By the time I departed the military, I had served a little over twenty years. I served from the Vietnam era through the Persian Gulf era. As I see it, the question of loyalty and patriotism as it relates to African Americans should give way in light of the distinguished record of service to this nation, overwhelmingly rendered by many in the face of historic injustices.

As the nation stands once again on the brink of war, many stories are being recalled and retold in and by the media. To support what I believe would be an unjust war in Iraq, the American public is being fed a constant barrage of militarism. From constant Presidential press bites calling for the dismantling of the Iraqi regime, to programs highlighting/glorifying past wars, and the never-ending train of military experts, for me the rhetoric has become morally sickening. I guess in light of the biblical text found in Ecclesiastes, we must consider the question: is this a time for war?

I must confess two years ago when the Supreme Court halted the democratic electoral process in Florida and appointed

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former Texas Governor Bush as President, I began to experience a kind of uneasiness, a foreboding within my spirit. As a child of God, I was reduced to praying a simple six-word prayer: **"Lord have mercy, on us all!"** Over the last year I have done a great deal of agonizing over many things, especially the current all out, at any cost, hell-bent militaristic posture that our nation has taken under this President. According to the media, which this President has couched safely and comfortably in his corner, a war with Iraq is a forgone conclusion. Before Bush was given Carte blanche, by the Congress and Senate, I found myself quietly wishing someone would stand up to his perpetual warmonger rhetoric. Prior to that vote, he engaged in what I call bully politics, demeaning and degrading anyone who would dare challenge what he purported as his divinely elected duty as President (a war). I was able to find some cause for hope, in and through the United Nations Security Council who appeared to refuse to bow to his inordinate drive for war, even though he made remarks like: "The United Nations seemed to lack calcium for their spine", and "they were in danger of becoming a league of nations."

What appeared to be almost absent from the argument was the churches' voice. To our credit, The World Council of Churches in its recent meeting issued a muffled manifesto by the media decrying the impending war with Iraq being pursued by this nation's leader. The National Council of Churches and the International Organization of Doctors without Borders would second that sentiment. It is my contention that the only means sought by this administration to justify this immoral unethical war is the dehumanization of the Iraqi people, particularly Saddam Hussein. The tactic of dehumanizing a race of people to win support for a war effort is not new for this nation. It found its birth in World War II, and it ultimately led to the atomic bomb being dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki civilian populated cities where hundreds of thousands died needlessly. The "teacher" lets us know that at the end of this vain life journey there is God to whom we must all give an account for our deeds. During the Second World War, President Truman may have had the support of the Congress and Senate on the two days that I believe went down in the Creator's ledger as days of ultimate infamy August 6th and 9th 1945. He disregarded the petitions signed by several scientists who worked on the atomic bomb project advising him against using it. He went against the International Law forbidding the bombing of civilians. And he closed his eyes and heart to any leading by God relating to his intentions. But, when he died he stood before God who created every liv-

ing being and he had to give an account for all of God's Japanese children who were slaughtered and unjustly killed.

I am amazed at the efforts that this nation has employed to justify a war with Iraq, a militarily inferior nation and army whose technology pales in comparison? A nation that allegedly has been shooting at our planes for ten years, and has not managed to hit even one!

As a former soldier who went to Saudi Arabia and into Iraq with the 82nd Airborne Division during Desert Shield/Storm there are some things I will never forget, having had that experience. I will never forget having ritually made peace with God in the desert, and preparing perhaps to die. I will never forget hearing what sounded like thunder some mornings, and looking up and seeing B52 bombers flying overhead with fighter escorts. I will never forget thinking how terrifying it must be to hear what sounds like thunder from above, and to know not long after, bombs would be falling from the sky. I will never forget driving for days through the desert headed for Iraq and the overwhelming massive gathering of tanks, armor vehicles, artillery pieces, and rocket launchers parked beside the road which stretched for miles. I will never forget the primitive defenses that met us as we reached the Iraqi border. I will never forget the awakening realization that I was then involved in what seemed like a practice war, that afforded America the opportunity to test its own weapons' capability against a far inferior force. I will never forget the busloads of Iraqi prisoners that passed us as we entered and drove through their country. Yeah, there are some things you never forget.

I did not see any combat action, but I was psychologically wounded in the desert. Here I was prepared to die having made my peace with God. I thanked him for my life, all thirty-six years, which is considered old in terms of military life. Here I was responsible for young men, some in their teens, others just out of their teens. My prayer was "Lord even if I do not make it home, protect these young men and take them safely home to their families". And then it happened, in a hostile environment on military maneuvers I found myself without a ride to a designated site. I saw a fellow soldier from my unit, who happened to be junior in rank to me, and I asked him for a ride to the bivouac area. For whatever reason, he came up with every excuse in the book and refused to let me ride on his vehicle. Having experienced the damaging effects of racial hatred as a young child of the fifties and sixties in the riot torn city of Philadelphia, his actions did more damage than an Iraqi bullet could have ever done. Here we were in a foreign land, on the verge of facing enemy forces, and this young white soldier could not look or

even see past the color of my skin and give me a ride. I was both hurt and shocked by his actions.

I had always known and even confronted matters of racial discrimination while in the military. On one occasion my Brigade Sergeant Major called me a radical for being so outspoken. But this thing caught me off guard. Perhaps it was because I had some high ideals about being willing to die for one's country, and fellow soldier that was reinforced by my Christian beliefs surrounding Christ and his sacrifice on Cavalry's Cross. Whatever the case, I was wounded by the familiar weapon of "racism". Peter Jennings remarked while narrating a program for the history channel, "W. E. B. Dubois writing early in this century said the problems facing this nation have to do with the problems of the 'color line'." He went on to say, "and every decade since has proven him right."

As I conclude, my brothers and sisters, here is the conclusion of the matter as articulated by the "teacher": ***"The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God, and keep his commandments; for that is the whole duty of everyone. For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every secret thing; whatever good or evil"*** (Ecclesiastes 12:13 NRSV). President Bush may keep on beating his war drum while millions of Americans suffer socially and economically in a nation that refuses to give them a ride when it comes to medical coverage, affordable prescription drugs, and pension security. He may continue to push politically partisan policies that leave bankrupt the social security coffers upon which the working class elderly citizens depend. He may push a tax agenda that beneath the surface serves his own interest and that of the wealthiest Americans. He may continue publicly practicing a Christ-less Christianity that says it's all right to want to start a war for any reason just as long as you have Bible study twice a week in the White House and make it public knowledge. He may be experiencing a high approval rating in public opinion polls. He may be resting comfortably while the Supreme Court stands on the verge of turning back the hands of time on Affirmative Action for minorities who will soon not be able to get a ride Academically. He may even have all the earthly support he needs to wage a war

with Iraq, but one day, he too must cross the river and meet his maker and give an account for all his deeds.

Perhaps there will never be a time in this nation (America) for planting, for healing, for building up, for laughing, for dancing, for gathering stones, for embracing, for seeking, for keeping, for mending, for love, or for peace. History has shown that this nation seems to have perfected its timing when it comes to plucking up, killing, breaking down, causing weeping, and mourning, throwing away stones, refraining from embracing, loosening, tearing up, keeping silent, hating, and going to war. If I were a prophet, I would say this President is in the process of bringing this nation to its knees.

As I bid you farewell, my General Baptist brothers and sisters, I want to thank Dr. John D. Fuller and the Lewis Chapel Baptist Church, for giving me the opportunity to share in ministry with this great Convention, and who encouraged me to write. And I thank Dr. Archie D. Logan for allowing me to share with you this written medium of the Baptist Informer as a contributing editor. It has been both a challenging and rewarding task of writing an article each month, that I hope served the causes of Christ in some way. Every now and again I reflect on the actions of that soldier who refused to let me ride, but now I'm a soldier in God's army and if I live right, I know he will let me ride! I know I'll get a ride when it's time for me to die, because I read it in the Bible. When Lazarus died, angels carried him to Abraham's bosom. When it was time for Elijah to go, fire chariots carried him to glory! After Jesus met with his disciple for the last time, he rode off to glory on a cloud. Yes, I know I'll get a ride, because one songwriter put it this way:

Swing low, sweet chariot, coming for to carry me home. I looked over Jordan and what did I see, coming for to carry me home. A band of angels coming after me. Coming for to carry me home.

And if this were not enough, my soul can sing:

Ride on, King Jesus, no man can a-hinder me. Ride on, King Jesus, no man can a-hinder me. In that great get-tin up morn-ing, fare ye well, fare ye well. In that great get-tin up morn-ing, fare ye well, fare ye well. ■

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From the Desk of the New Second Vice-President

By Reverend Nilous M. Avery, II – M. Div.

Peace be to you all, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.



Rev. Nilous Avery, II

favors" (NRSV). Wouldn't it be nice if

This is the season when the world celebrates Christmas and the New Year in swift succession. Special attention is given to performing acts of compassion and embracing the angelic praise of "peace on earth among those whom God

the hearts and minds of humankind were mobilized and energized to possess this mindset throughout the year?!

The world now stands in between the time when the Lord came into the world and the time when He will come again. The Lord's appearing here on that night in Bethlehem over 2,000 years ago provided a look at a policy that often plagues our world – a policy of "no room". The savior of the world was born in an area usually set aside for the animals. There was no room for his family in that crowded town filled with people who had complied with Caesar Augustus' decree that all inhabitants of Rome's empire be registered.

This "no room" policy continued when King Herod received word that the Messiah had been born in Bethlehem.

Herod sent his soldiers to kill all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under. Herod had a "no room" policy – he would not tolerate any sharing of his throne.

Jesus often found Himself at odds with the political and religious leaders because of His passion for God and compassion for people. He placed human needs above tradition. He crossed lines and broke down barriers that alienated people because of their race, sex, status, and religion. He advocated the inclusion of all persons. As a result, Jesus was targeted for crucifixion because the political and religious leaders had a "no room" policy – they would not tolerate any one defying their custom of putting and keeping people "in their place".

Our world has a history of having a "no room" policy. Racism and sexism are twin cousins of evil that seek to oppress

others simply because of their skin color or gender. Whole segments of our population are often abandoned and/or isolated based upon their race, gender, economic status, creed, or religious/political beliefs. When Jesus comes again, will the "no room" policy still be in effect? When Jesus comes again, will this policy that faced Him when He was born as a child face Him as He returns as King?

Many have not made room for others because they have not made room for Christ in their life. Except for a few "program guarded" minutes on Sunday and maybe during mid-week, there is a "no room" policy in effect today. Liston Pope noted in the 1960s that 11:00 a.m. on Sunday morning was the most segregated hour in American society. In the

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News From Central Children's Home

By Reverend Ricky L. Banks

We are grateful to God to report to the convention family our monthly report on behalf of our Central Children's Home. I want to first and foremost encourage Mr.



Rev. Ricky Banks

earth. Psalm 121:2 supports my previous statement on how God is going to bless the work of our Executive Director, Mr. Alston. As the psalmist looked at the hills he asked himself from whence could

Michael Alston, Executive Director of the Central Children's Home, that God is going to bless his work and efforts for the Home more than ever before.

My help cometh from the Lord, which heaven and

he look for help, and decided that his help must come from God. The Maker of heaven and earth was more powerful than the everlasting hills, or than any force of which he knew. To some it may look dark and doubtful, but others will remember "Our real help is from God who put this home in the earth, and He will guide our steps if we trust Him."

God is eternal and unchangeable. If we trust him, and work for him, he shall preserve our going out and our coming in now and forever more.

PRAYER: We thank thee, O God, for thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Help us to be ever mindful of our position as stewards of God, to whom he has entrusted many sacred tasks. In Jesus' name. Amen.

We humbly ask for your support, and if we can answer any questions please call me at (252) 335-5003 or (252) 267-3428. HAPPY NEW YEAR AND GOD BLESS!

From the First Vice-President

Dr. Howard W. Parker, Jr.
State Mission

Greetings in the Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

January 2002, I submitted an article to



Dr. Howard Parker, Jr.

the Baptist Informer announcing my candidacy for First Vice-President of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. I shared with you in that article and thanked you for affording me the opportunity to serve the convention in the positions from Fourth Vice-President, to Second Vice-President. On Wednesday, October 30, 2002, in our Annual Session in Fayetteville, the members of this body responded with a positive note in bestowing me with that honor.

Please know that I am most thankful for the privilege to serve the GBSC as your First Vice-President and will do all I can to keep the convention informed on matters of State Mission (Home Mission).

The work of the First Vice-President embraces the duties and the responsibilities of the Evangelism Committee, the Moderator of Moderator's Committee, Church Extension and Institutional Ministries, Building Planning and Cooperative Ministries.

As I focus my attention on the duties and the responsibilities of First Vice-President, it is my hope to begin submitting articles to the Baptist Informer as it relates to State Missions. I look forward

to working with those who will be asked by our President, Dr. Charles T. Bullock, to serve the convention as Chairperson of our Evangelism Committee, Moderator of Moderator's Committee, Program

Committee, etc., over the next four years. Finally, as we approach the Holiday Season, it is my prayer that all in affiliation with our great General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and every one in our surrounding communities will enjoy a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!

**From The First Vice-President,
Dr. Howard W. Parker, Jr.**

The office of the First Vice-President of the GBSC covers Home Missions (State Missions) and includes a wide range of interest. As the new administration of our convention continues to set sail, I want to begin by reporting to you on the duties and the responsibilities of the officers of the convention, the function of the General Board, the Executive Committee and the Trustees.

The following information was shared with the officers of the parent body of the GBSC, along with the officers of our convention auxiliaries on Tuesday, November 26, 2002, in a meeting hosted by our President, Dr. Charles T. Bullock. Our Executive Secretary-Treasurer Dr. Archie D. Logan, Jr., provided us with our guide as we embark on this mission for the next four years.

CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS

Charles T. Bullock, President

THE PRESIDENT shall preside over the deliberation of the Convention. He shall appoint Committees that are not provided by the Constitution unless otherwise stat-

See PARKER, Page 7

From the Desk of the Third Vice-President

By Dr. Leonzo D. Lynch



Dr. Leonzo Lynch

Greetings to you in the matchless name of Jesus the Christ, who is the reason for every season! I trust that you had a blessed Christmas. Let us praise God for allowing us to see the year 2003 and worship Him for the

hope that each new year brings.

As we focus on the Shaw University Divinity School, our guest columnist for January is Dr. J. T. Roberson, Dean of the Divinity School, who will share with us in his own way.

I thank you for your continued support of this great Convention and may God richly bless you!

“How Firm a Foundation” for a New Year

By Executive Secretary-Treasurer Brodie

To God be the Glory for allowing us in the strength of Christ to endure and come triumphantly through another calen-



Dr. Priscilla Brodie

dar year and to see and embark upon the journey of this New Year. In this New Year let us as Christ's disciples and witnesses in word and deed continue to stand on the firm foundation that is laid for our faith in His excellent Word. We do not know what this year holds for us, but let us not fear because God holds it in His care. To us God does not give the “spirit of fear”, but the “spirit of power, love, and a sound mind”. Let us accept then the challenges which lie ahead; let us prepare (gird up our loins) for Godly action/missions in light of Christ's mission, to make and nurture disciples. This making and nurturing disci-

ples for Christ will demand from us more worshipping, preaching, teaching, praying, fellowshiping, serving with talents and spiritual gifts, generous giving. If we wait (depend) upon the Lord, we will renew our strength; we will mount up with wings as eagles; we will run, and not be weary; and we will walk, and not faint – (Isaiah 40:31). If we wait (look to) upon the Lord, we, as the saints of the Lord, can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth us. Then in Him we will witness a glorious New Year for His Cause. Then let us remember to praise God, to thank God, to pray to God, and to serve (be gentle to others) others in His name.

How Firm a Foundation

How firm a foun-da-tion, ye saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in His ex-cel-lent Word!

What more can He say than to you He hath said – To you, who for ref-uge to Je-sus have fled?

“Fear not, I am with thee – O be not dis-mayed, For I am thy God, I will still give thee aid; I'll strength-en thee, help thee,

and cause thee to stand, Up-held by my gra-cious, om-nip-o-tent hand.”

“The soul that on Je-sus hath leaned for re-pose, I will not, I will not de-sert to his foes; That soul, tho all hell should en-deav-or to shake, I'll nev-er – no, nev-er for –sake!”



Dr. Julius McDonald

“K” – in
Rippon's
Selection of
Hymns, 1787

**HAVE A
BLESSED
NEW YEAR IN
THE LORD
AND SAVIOR
JESUS
CHRIST!**

FOR INFORMATION

The **One-Day Session** for all departments will convene at the Raleigh Civic Center on January 11, 2003. Sessions begin at 9:00 a.m.

Committees who desire to meet may meet January 11, 2003, from 8:00 a.m. – 8:45 a.m. in the arena (Civic Center).

Prayer Ministry. Friends of Jesus Christ and of the Convention are asked to join our Nehemiah Fellowship in observing a prayer vigil every day during this year for spiritual and general welfare of the Woman's Convention and its mission, ministries, laborers (staff and all volunteers), and constituency. “Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.” Phil. 4:6.

Calendar. Please notice the calendar of

events for 2003. You may desire to order a GBSC calendar booklet, which contains conventional and related organizational dates. You may secure this booklet from the office of the Woman's Convention or GBSC.

The 2002-2003 Budget is in the amount of \$806,055.00: Foreign Missions, \$80,200.00; State Missions, \$565,855.00; Shaw University, \$49,500.00; Shaw Divinity School, \$33,500.00; Central Children Home, \$36,500.00; and Baptist Assembly, \$40,500.00. Checks and Money Orders should be made payable to the Woman's Baptist State Convention and sent to Woman's Baptist State Convention, P. O. Box 1818, Raleigh, NC 27602. PLEASE BE REMINDED THAT THE WOMAN'S CONVENTION'S FUNDS ARE NOT A PART OF THE UNIFIED PLAN.

Institutes/Workshops. Please contact our office for certified workers to lead institutes and workshops pertaining to church missions. We now have a structured curriculum for study.

Initial Public Sermon. On Sunday, December 8, 2002, Executive Secretary-Treasurer Brodie delivered her initial public sermon at the First Baptist Church, Franklinton, North Carolina, Dr. Coolidge McCoy, pastor. Her subject was “Living As The Lord's Waiters” based on the scriptures: Isaiah 40:31 and Philippians 4:13. Her discourse, based on Isaiah 40:25-31 and Philippians 4:4-7, 11-13, was developed through some biblical persons who personified this Word of God and ended with the par example, Jesus, who showed/shows His disciples how to wait on God.

GBSC Is Available To Work With Churches

By Dr. Archie D. Logan Jr.

Greetings! The General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina is available to work with your church during the time you do not have a Pastor. We will work with the Deacons and other officers to provide guidance as you search for a new pastor to lead your church.

Some of the things we offer:

- We have ordained Baptist ministers available to assist the Deacons in carrying out the Church Ordinances: Lord Supper and Baptism.
- We have ordained clergy who can serve as an “Interim Minister” in your church.
- Some suggested workshops:
 - ✓ How To Select An Interim Pastor?
 - ✓ How To Call A Pastor?
 - ✓ How Much Should We Pay Our Pastor?
 - ✓ Church Administration
 - ✓ How To Plan A Church Budget
 - ✓ Effective Bible Study
 - ✓ Evangelism Classes
 - ✓ Special Training For Deacons/Trustees
 - ✓ Christian Education Planning
 - ✓ Church Development
 - ✓ Please call if you are interested in any of these services!
 - ✓ 1-800-639-GBSC (4272)

AVERY, Cont'd From Page 5

year 2002, not much has changed.

This season challenges us to lift the veil and tear down the walls that keep a “no room” policy in place. We must make room for the least, the lost, the lonely, the left out, the kept out, the locked out, and the knocked out. We must make room for the frail, the fragile, and the forgotten. We must make room for the distressed, the depressed, and the oppressed. We must make room for the hapless, the helpless, the hopeless, and the homeless. If we do not strive to make room for those who are God's beautiful creatures, should we be surprised if God meets us at the gates of the Eternal City and declares: “There is no room for you?!”

Beloved, let us make room throughout the year to support the goals and objectives of the General Baptist State Convention. Your time, talents, treasures, and prayers are encouraged and welcomed. The foreign mission field is a harvest that is ripe for spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ – “There is plenty good room in my Father's kingdom!” God's peace be with you all for a joyous Christmas and a fruitful, spirit-filled New Year. **TO GOD BE THE GLORY!**

Reverend Nilous M. Avery, II
(704) 637-0954 – church; (704) 637-1137 – fax
E-mail – averyrevkin@aol.com

VICE PRESIDENT'S NEWS CONTINUED

PARKER, Cont'd From Page 5

ed. He shall preside over the Executive Committee, and shall perform any and all other duties appertaining to the office of the Presidency.

Vice President At-Large, John H. Grant

THE VICE PRESIDENT AT-LARGE shall preside over the deliberations on the Convention in the absence of the President, or at the request of the President. He shall assist the President in the carrying out of the work of the Convention and shall preside over the General Board.

First Vice-President, Howard W. Parker, Jr.

THE FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT shall assist the President in the operation of the Convention at the request of the President, or at the request of the body, if the President and Vice-President At-Large are absent. He shall chair the Committee of the Department of Home Missions.

Second Vice-President, Nilous Avery, II

THE SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT shall assist the President in the operation of the Convention, and shall perform all other duties peculiar to this office. He shall chair the Committee for the Department of Foreign Missions.

Third Vice-President, Leonzo Lynch

THE THIRD VICE-PRESIDENT shall serve the Convention at the request of the President, and shall chair the Committee for the Department of Higher Education.

Fourth Vice-President, Ricky Banks

THE FOURTH VICE-PRESIDENT shall serve the Convention at the request of the

President, and shall chair the Committee for the Central Orphanage (*The Central Children's Home*).

Recording Secretary, Gloria Gerald

THE RECORDING SECRETARY shall record and compile the minutes of the Convention, and in conjunction with the Executive Treasurer, cause the same to be printed for distribution.

Assistant Recording Secretary, Patricia Robinson

THE ASSISTANT RECORDING SECRETARY shall assist the Recording Secretary in the recording and printing of the records.

Statistician, A. T. Griffey

THE STATISTICIAN shall gather and compile the statistics of the Convention, and shall make an annual written report of the same to the Convention.

Historian, Jasper Reed

THE HISTORIAN shall record and report to the Convention in writing such information as may be germane to the history of the Convention.

Parliamentarian, J. Ray Butler

THE PARLIAMENTARIAN shall decide what rules of order shall govern the deliberation of the Convention, and shall give points of clarification on matters of Parliamentary Procedure.

The Executive Secretary-Treasurer,

Archie D. Logan, Jr.

THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY-TREASURER shall have administrative supervision over, and is responsible for the total promotion of the Convention program. He shall be the chief executive officer of the General Board Staff, the Chief Budget

Officer of the General Board Staff, the Chief Professional Advisor of the Convention and its Committees, the Secretary and Treasurer of the General Board and the Convention, and a strong spiritual leader providing statewide guidance and inspiration.

The General Board

THE GENERAL BOARD shall be made up of one hundred and twenty-seven (127) members from each auxiliary, moderators of associations and from the Convention. The President of each auxiliary shall be ex-officio voting members of the Board. The General Board shall elect an Executive Committee of forty (40), and shall supervise the work of the Executive Committee. It shall do the work of the Convention on its work during the interim. In cases of emergency: (1) The General Board will meet at the Call of the President and Chairman; (2) Be empowered to change the time or place of meetings, cancel the sessions of the Convention and its auxiliaries or call a special meeting by a vote of two-thirds of the members present when the vote is taken. Those present for a regular or call meeting shall constitute a quorum for the said meeting, members having been notified of the meeting in writing at least ten (10) days before the meeting.

The Executive Committee

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE shall be made up of forty (40) elected by constitutional stipulation. The Executive Committee shall be made up of forty (40) members; three (3) from the Woman's Auxiliary, two (2) each from the other three (3) Auxiliaries and thirty-one (31) from the Convention. It shall work under the supervision of the General Board, and shall make its report to the same. It shall function for the General Board, during the interim of its session. It shall meet at the call of the President of the Convention. It shall report annually to the General Board, and at such times as the Board may deem necessary. It shall employ the Executive Secretary-Treasurer, and Assistant to the Executive Secretary-Treasurer, the manager of the Book Store, and such other help it deems necessary. It shall fix the honorariums of all convention personnel and participants and the salaries of all the employees of

the Convention. The Executive Committee shall meet in regular session within sixty (60) days after the Annual Session of the Convention to assess the adopted program, give direction to the Departments, Commissions, Committees and Auxiliaries.

The Trustees

THE TRUSTEES shall be elected by the Convention. The number of Trustees shall be seven (7), with two (2) being elected by the Woman's Auxiliary and five (5) by the Convention. The Trustees shall be associate members of the Executive Committee without a vote. The Trustees shall sign all legal documents and be the custodian of the Convention's property as pertaining to the duties of the Trustees, and shall employ counsel whenever they deem it necessary to effectively perform the duties peculiar to the office. The Trustees shall negotiate all assignments of the convention, looking after the legal matters of the Convention, and shall, at the direction of the Convention, maintain general supervision over the properties of the convention in consultation with legal counsel. The Trustees shall make an annual report to the General Convention and shall report to the General Board and the Executive Committee whenever requested to do so. The Trustees shall determine the amount of bond for the Executive Secretary-Treasurer. One-third of the membership of the Trustees shall expire every four (4) years.

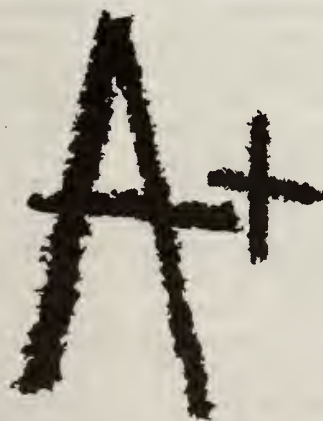
Vacant Officers

The Assistant to the Executive Secretary-Treasurer
The Director of Christian Education
The Director of Music
The Editor of the Baptist Organ (Baptist Informer)

Expectations Of GBSC Officers

The officers are encouraged to provide spiritual and stewardship leadership for the Convention; to attend all Sessions of the Convention; to attend all Board Meetings of the convention and uphold the Constitutional mandates. To serve as appointed by the President on Commissions, Committees or as deemed necessary. ■

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State Ushers' News

By Alice W. McNair, Reporter

Happy New Year to all ushers of the North Carolina Baptist Ushers' Convention! God has truly blessed our Convention! As we focus on the motto of



Forest Eaves

our visionary President, Mr. Forest M. Eaves "To Serve This Present Age My Calling to Fulfill, Rending Services To All", let us endeavor to be greater servants in the Ushering Ministry. Ushers, God has greater blessings

ahead for us as we endeavor to render unselfish service to our fellow man.

Our Executive Board is dedicated to the cause as members met at the J. J. Johnson Assembly in Laurel Hill, NC, on Friday prior to the Annual Ushers' Workshop held on November 9th, 2002.

All ushers who attended the Saturday session can declare that it was a blessing! Second Vice-President and Devotional Chairperson Mr. Charles Dunn led the Inspirational Devotional Service.

Greetings and expressions were given by our President Mr. Forest M. Eaves, Jr. Mrs. Mattie Murphy extended greetings in the absence of Dr. Charles Bullock, the newly elected President of the General Baptist State Convention.

Highlights of the Annual Workshop included workshop presentations by Reverend Martin T. Clowney, Dean; Mr. Roy Harris, Assistant Dean; and Mrs. Eddie Culbreth, Nurses Aides' Chairperson. Reverend Clowney's workshop presentation was drawn from the scripture of I Corinthians 14:40: "Let all things be done decently and in order". Ushers, as we continue our Ministry of Service, Reverend Clowney reminded us of the requirements necessary for an effective Ushering Ministry: Christianity, Love, Patience, Courtesy, Alertness, Promptness, Discipline, Courage and Friendliness. Our Dean, Reverend Clowney, posed a thought provoking question, "Who Signed You Up?". Ushers paused to reflect on knowing their calling and what it meant to be an usher. Mr. Roy Harris challenged all Districts to obtain a Level Five Ushering Ministry. Mr. Harris, Assistant Dean, discussed each Level (I - V) as he continued the workshop. Plans are to provide you with detailed information regarding the various

levels. Dean Harris stated that churches should contact him for more information regarding Level Five certification. Mrs. Eddie Culbreth discussed Fire Safety. She stated that it was crucial that churches practice fire drills and safety precautions often. Reverend William Marable, Pastor, Star of Bethlehem Baptist Church, Fairmont, NC, concluded the great day of learning and witnessing. His sermon topic was "The Model Usher Will Have Christian Credentials". He lifted the text from II Corinthians 3:1-3, 12-20. Reverend Marable summarized his dynamic sermon by stating that there must be some visible evidence of God at work in us if we are Christians.

President Eaves encourages ushers to make a special effort to attend the One Day Session of the General Baptist State Ushers' Convention Saturday, February 22, 2003, at Benton Convention Center, Winston-Salem, NC. Ushers are asked to please wear the State Ushers' Uniforms.

Send Ushers' News to Alice W. McNair, P. O. Box 105, Newton Grove, NC 28366. Information or concerns regarding the North Carolina Baptist Ushers' Convention Incorporated should be directed to Mr. Forest M. Eaves, President, 801 Walnut Avenue, Charlotte, NC 28208-4541 or Ms. Mary M. Belle, Secretary, 536 Diamond Plum Circle, Virginia Beach, VA 23452.

Wake County Usher's Union Presents Annual Award

By Alice W. McNair

The Wake County Usher's Union, an auxiliary of the Wake County Missionary Baptist Association presented its annual scholarship essay contest award to the winner at Springfield Baptist Church on November 17, 2002. The 2002 winner was Miss Fannie Ashe, a youth usher at Springfield Baptist Church, Raleigh, NC, where Rev. Daniel Sanders is the pastor.

Wake County Usher's Union President, Harold Booker presented the award at the 10 AM service on November 17, 2002. This award is normally presented to the winner at the annual Wake Association Awards Banquet, but this year the Usher's Union decided to present it at the winner's home church. Miss Ashe's family, friends and home church were very proud of her and happy to share in the occasion with her. Miss Ashe is currently enrolled at North Carolina Central University where she is majoring in Nursing. President Booker encouraged all ushers who qualify to exhibit their writing skills by participating in the essay contest in the future.

The scholarship essay contest is held annually and is open to active Wake County ushers who are high school seniors planning to enter an institution of higher learning during the fall semester. Each participant must compose a 500-word essay using the subject, Why I need a scholarship, and submit it to the Usher's

Union. Each participant must submit letters of recommendation from the usher ministry president and the pastor along with the essay. The entries are judged by the scholarship committee of the Usher's Union. The winner receives a scholarship which is to be used at the selected institution of higher learning.

This is one of the many ways the Wake County Usher's Union strives to help its youth ushers obtain their spiritual, physical, financial, and educational goals. We are very proud of our ushers and want them to be the best they can be.

The Annual Wake County Ushers Workshop will be held on March 1, 2003, at Friendship Chapel Baptist Church, Wake Forest, NC. Rev. Everett Jenkins of Saint Matthews Baptist Church, Raleigh, NC, will be the facilitator for the adult session. Rev. Patricia Jones of Friendship Chapel Baptist Church will be the facilitator for the youth session. Each Wake County usher ministry president will be receiving the specifics about this workshop. Each Wake County usher is encouraged to attend this workshop.

The annual Wake County Usher's Convention will be held on May 3, 2003, at Faith Missionary Baptist Church. All Wake County ushers are asked to please make plans to attend this event. Additional information will be provided in a later edition of the Baptist Informer.

REGISTRATION AND REPRESENTATION FORM THE 2003 ONE DAY SESSION

USHER'S CONVENTION

FEBRUARY 22, 2003

BENTON CONVENTION CENTER, 301 WEST FIFTH STREET, WINSTON-SALEM, NC 27101

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PASTOR _____

ASSOCIATION _____

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YOUR NAME _____

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YOUR PHONE () _____

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NUMBER OF MESSENGERS _____ @ \$10.00 EACH AMOUNT \$ _____

CHURCH REPRESENTATION \$400.00 FOR THE YEAR AMOUNT \$ _____

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Ways to Grow Spiritually: How to Really Experience God

By Rev. Jamale Johnson, 1st Vice-President
Mt. Sinai Baptist Church
Submitted by Diane M. Newell, President
Congress of Christian Education,
GBSC, N.C., Inc.

TIPS FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Spiritual Growth within Local Church
– Eph. 4:12 “For the perfecting/equip-



Diane
Newell

ping of the saints for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.”

These are spiritual ideas that can be implemented with ease in the local church to enhance the spiritual growth

of members. Basic implementation for these ideas requires a church announcement in the bulletin stating: the idea, its purpose, the implementation date.

Prayer in the Local Church – Acts 2:42
“They continually devoting themselves to apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and prayer.”

I. Early Morning Prayer Group

Purpose: To specifically pray for the:

1. Pastor
2. Church Members
3. Churches Ministries

Sunday Morning before all church services begin.

II. Prayer Partners

Purpose: To unite with another person in the fellowship of prayer to specifically pray for:

1. Partners individual lives and families
 2. Spiritual growth development
 3. Spiritual growth of church
 4. Community and World Issues
- Pray and ask God to lead you to someone, set a specific time when partners make contact by phone.

III. Sunday School Class Prayer Time

Purpose: To specifically pray for:

1. Class members
2. Salvation of Lost People

Five Minutes of Sunday School class time; requires a prayer leader for class.

IV. Mid-Week Prayer Service

Purpose: To promote specific praying in the mid-week prayer service and to increase attendance. The objective in

the mid-week prayer service is to specifically pray about everything and invite persons to participate. Types of prayer services:

1. First Prayer Meeting of the Year
2. Men’s/Women’s Day
3. M. L. King Observance
4. Back to School
5. Family Mid-Week Prayer Night
6. Elected Official Prayer Night
7. Unemployed Prayer Night
8. Sick and Shut-In Night
9. Substance Abuse Prayer Night
10. Prayer for a School

This type of ministry needs: A Prayer Director – responsible for coordinating, planning and implementing the Mid-Week Prayer Meeting.

Designate someone to keep a record of attendance.

Individual Prayer Time

V. Praying the Scriptures – Praying God’s Word is the best way to communicate with God. Find a Scripture to pray for your situation or to intercede on someone’s behalf. For example, pray these verses:

1. Sin in your life – Psalms 51:3
2. For Wisdom – I Kings 3:9
3. Thanksgiving – Psalm 136
4. Praise God – Psalm 135
5. Children – Ephesians 6:1
6. Pastor – Titus 1:9
7. Church – Ephesians 4:1-3
8. Psalm 23 –

Substituting “I” in the place of plural pronouns or making the Scripture personal.

VI. Prayer Journal – Helps to keep track of your prayers and when God answers your prayers. Journalizing will strengthen your faith in God because you will see God moving in many areas of your life.

How to Keep a Prayer Journal:

1. Divide the notebook into sections:
 - a. Personal/Family
 - b. Ministry/Job
 - c. Community
 - d. Intercessory
2. How to write in your notebook:
 - a. Date your prayers
 - b. When the prayer is answered date and circle the date.
 - c. Use color system
 1. Confessing sin use red ink (Notice the red decrease)
 2. Writing scriptures blue ink
 3. Specific Prayers black ink

Examples

1. Prayer Concerns

December 6

– Lord, please forgive me of my sins.

- Bless my sister in her relocation to Charlotte.
- Lead me in the schools I should apply to.

2. Fasting and Prayer

Pre-Prayer List

- a. Org. of Bible Study
- b. Filling position(s)
- c. Witnessing Efforts
- d. Health of Family
- e. Lost family members

Fasting Nov. 24-Dec. 3

Confession: Isaiah 1:16

Praise: Psalm 135

Thanksgiving: Psalm 136

Petition: I Kings 3:9

Intercession:

– Lev. 17:11

– Prv. 31:31

– Col. 1:10

List of Blessings

- a. Spiritual growth of members.

OTHER TIPS FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

VII. Worship

1. Willing to sing in church
2. Lifting Hands, clapping
3. A true giver: Tither and Giver
4. Listener and note taker of good preaching

VIII. Reader of the Word – Commit to

reading the Bible daily.

Ways to Read the Bible:

1. Read through the Bible in a year.
2. Read a particular book, i.e., I John for a month.

IX. INCREASE MEMORIZATION –

As you read everyday the same words from the same pages, the words and pages will become familiar. Thus, increasing memory of Scripture.

1. Read through a book for a year, outlining the chapters.
2. Research a topic, i.e., Holy Spirit.
3. Word studies, i.e., Wisdom, Love.

X. Faithful attendance to Bible study – Faithful and regular attendance requires discipline.

1. Sunday School attendance – prior study before entering the Sunday School class.
2. Mid-week Bible study
3. Other Bible studies, conferences
4. Topical Bible studies – held with in the homes
5. Missionary group Bible studies

XI. Fellowship – Willing to be in the company of other saints

1. Willingness to bond with people who have children in the same age group.

See GROWTH, Page 10

REGISTRATION AND REPRESENTATION FORM
THE 2003 ONE DAY SESSION

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FEBRUARY 8, 2003

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GROWTH, Cont'd From Page 9

2. Common lifestyles: music, hobbies, desire to study the Word.
3. Reaching out to those older and wiser.

XII. Witness – Willing to share Christ with others.

1. Practice carrying a tract every day with you in your wallet or purse; be ready to share Christ with whomever you come in contact.
2. Be able to tell your testimony in two minutes.

XIII. Serving in the Church: Willing to serve in various ministries in the church.

1. Serving with love and without partiality.
2. Willingness to work with children, youth, young adults, seniors.

RECOMMENDED BOOKS:

Whitney, Donald S., Spiritual Discipline for Christian Life
Kelley, Rhonda Harrington, Divine Discipline
Cornwall, Judson, Praying the Scriptures
McKalab, George, How to be Blessed ■

Congress of Christian Education

Congress of Christian Education 2002-2006 Theme

“To Serve the Present Age: Equipping the Saints for the Work of the Ministry”

Ephesians 4:11-12

“To serve the present age, my calling to fulfill; O may it all my pow’rs engage to do my Master’s will.” As we embark upon another new year and administration of the Congress of Christian Education, the words of this old church hymn embodies the focus for our term of 2002-2006.

The officers of the Congress of Christian Education have developed the following curriculum for our One-Day Session to be held on Saturday, February 8, 2003, at the Benton Convention Center, Winston-Salem, NC. Plan now to join us as you read through the following training and equipping opportunities. Books to accompany each class will be available for delegates to purchase.

DIVISION 1: Ministerial Development
Class: *Ministerial Ethics & Etiquette*

DIVISION 2: Leadership Development
Class: *How to Build an Effective Christian Education Ministry*
Class: *Revitalizing the Church’s BTU*

DIVISION 3: The Sunday School
Class: *How to Grow A Dynamic Sunday School*

DIVISION 4: Teacher Training and Development
Class: *Ministering to Adult Students (ages 19 and up)*
Class: *Ministering to High School Students (Grades 9-12)*
Class: *Ministering to Middle School Students (Grades 6-8)*
Class: *Ministering to Older Elementary School Students (Grades 3-5)*
Class: *Ministering to Younger Elementary School Students (Grades 1-2)*
Class: *Ministering to Preschool Students (Pre K-Kindergarten)*

DIVISION 5: Youth Ministry
Class: *The Purpose Driven Youth Ministry*
Class: *Oratorical Contest Interest*

DIVISION 6: Biblical and General Course Studies
Class: *Introduction to the Old Testament*

DIVISION 7: Music Division
Class: *The Minister of Music: Role and Responsibilities*
Class: *Church Music vs. Music in the Church*

DIVISION 8: Youth Division
Class: *Youth Break-out Session*

Missionary Baptist Church 36 Ways to Involve Youth and Young Adults In Your Church

By Portia H. Brandon, M.Div.
Christian Education Coordinator

Create youth and young adult groups.

Know your youth and young adults personally, by name and get involved in their lives.



Portia
Brandon

Personally invite youth and young adults to worship services.

Have youth and young adults assist with worship service.

Create youth and young adult choirs.

Have youth and young adult volunteer outreach programs to do mission work and outreach services for the community.

Organize — structure — schedule.
Send care packages to college students.

Send a newsletter to college students to notify them of upcoming events.

Send birthday/Christmas cards to youth and young adults – and make it personal.

Help college students find a church in their greater campus area.

Encourage and allow youth and young adults to plan and present a Children’s Message at worship services.

Get youth and young adult groups to personally greet all young newcomers.

Have a Sunday dedicated to youth and young adult graduations.

Commission all youth group leaders in front of the congregation.

Give budget support for youth and young adult attendance at conference, regional and national events.

Keep the church informed about what the youth and young adults are doing.

Include a youth and young adult’s section in newsletter.

Have special offerings for the youth and young adult projects.

Encourage the youth and young adults to sit on church boards and committees.

Encourage youth and young adults to be active in church services.

Hold coordinating activities with ecumenical partners.

Encourage outreach ministries.

Make youth and young adult ministries a church budget line.

Invite youth and young adults to share talents in church services – musical, theatrical, dance.

Involve youth and young adults in all policy-making decisions.

Be mindful of the 20% mandate for youth and young adult membership on boards and national committees.

Make a flyer for all youth and young adult event/programming – to let them know what their church is doing for them.

Keep a bulletin board for youth and young adult info.

Create a youth and young adult newspaper with editorials, photos, drawings, and their thoughts.

Create a web page for your youth and young adults.

Encourage youth and young adult web pages.

Give the youth and young adults a room in the building to meet and make their own.

Create a mission study.

Encourage youth and young adult led/focused Bible Studies.

Invite the youth and young adults to lead Sunday School classes. ■

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A Historical Observation

By Dr. Jasper P. Reed
GBSC Historian

As we continue to seek to understand our historical beginnings and being, as the General Baptist State Convention, let us look again at our coming of age. At the



Dr. Jasper
Reed

time when the world's population was less than 10% Black, North Carolina's was 25% or greater. They had gathered here not behind God's back but rather in full view of His purpose. Within these generations, gathered, was a compilation of experiences that slavery had provided. These exposures and memories, along with their moments of endurance, did and do serve as casual stimuli that affected their decision-making processes. Let us not limit these casual experiences to the physical but to

the spiritual as well. Yes these moments and memories were being discussed with the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Some of those discussing were believers, who had heard the Preached word, and accepted Christ as their Personal Savior. Their very survival was spiritually based, "For without me you can do nothing."

Come let us read Exodus chapter 33 and beginning with verse one, "The Lord said unto Moses, Depart, and go up hence, thou and the people which thou has brought up out of the Land of Egypt (Slavery), unto the land which I swear unto . . . Unto thy seed will I give it." In other words possession of these experiences prepared our founders to move to the next level. Let me hasten to point out that even during slavery the Doctrine of the Fatherhood of God was known and generally accepted by all Christians as a major premise of their RELIGION. The issue of logic rather than faith surfaces as we reveal the second part of the saying that is, "The Brotherhood of Man." Many Christians during those years chose logic over faith based on their religion. The applications of Christian Religion are lim-

ited unless we live in the Word of God. This was not germane nor was it inherited in most attempts at situational justification during the years of slavery.

The Lord knew that the institution of slavery, in the United States, was not in keeping with His plan. Slavery was a physical, political, and socio-economical institution rather than a spiritual one. Paul gave us a look at how slavery and spiritual justification coexisted. In Philemon the institution of slavery was alive and well. Note that Paul reminded Philemon that Onesimus, his slave, was his Christian brother. This had nothing to do with logic but with faith. With Christ all things are possible. His command was love ye one another as I have loved you. These are some of the casual stimuli that led our founders to create, with the help of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit, an environ and institution where they could move to the level the Lord had preserved for them. God deserved to be worshipped in the fullness of His Glory. However conditions surrounding the African American during slavery and immediately thereafter did not promote a

worship atmosphere. Many of the causes that plagued them as a people then, because they were imposed, are with us today. The difference is that then they were imposed by someone else but today they are self-imposed by most of us.

Finally, we as members of the General Baptist State Convention with its Associations, Districts, and Churches need to remember the cause and effect relationship that spawned the group of founders who could look back and see where they came from. Let us re-read and meditate on Nehemiah 1:3b-11. Maybe this will help us with the premise that maybe those things which were prevalent then will go away. Nehemiah realized that maybe we needed to return to the walls and gates in order to find our justification as Disciples of Christ. We the members of the General Baptist State Convention need to return to the wall, where we made our pledge, to ascertain whether we are on task and in focus with what the Spirit led our founders to begin. Do we love the Convention as they did and can we act as Christ's Disciples towards it? ■

Religious Reflections of the Beautiful Zion Missionary Baptist Church

By Kimiko Jackson

Let's go on an adventure, take a journey with me back 100 years ago. Let's go to a place that is far from reality yet not unreachable through our vivid imagination. Picture it in August the year 1902 a place known as Dock Springs to some, Bug's Island to many, and Griffin Quarters to others. A plot of land was purchased for only \$10. A one room house in the midst of trees, animals and God only knows what else was back there, way back in the woods as the elders would say, where three deacons and a pastor had a vision, had determination, and most importantly had faith. Deac. Walter Sharrock, Deac. J. T. Harris, Deac. John P. Bazemore, and Rev. Thomas Sharrock Sr. This one room place was incorporated into a worshipping sanctuary. To some it was a shabby old place, but to those men, I can only imagine that they saw something Beautiful. I can only hypothesize by saying that, that is the reason our church was given the wonderful name Beautiful Zion Missionary Baptist Church.

In 1929 after 27 years of residing in Griffin Quarters, if I may use the words from a past hit show The Jeffersons, Beautiful Zion was moving on up, but not to the deluxe apartment in the sky, but to Hwy. 308 also known as Governors Road. The land was purchased from T. N. Peele

for \$150. Trustees in charge of the land transaction were William Sharrock, Roland Faison, and George Sharrock. Now picture this one room house transferred from Griffin Quarters to Hwy. 308. The path that led to the church was two miles long. It is said by one of our mothers of the church, Mother Ethel Rooks a.k.a. Miss Polly, that the church was moved by one black mule and with poles that rolled along behind the mule.

Because of improper documentation, important information about Beautiful Zion is a mystery and probably will remain one. The exact years that each pastor ministered is unclear as well as some names, but I have a list with some of our past pastors and they are in chronological order to my knowledge. The one thing that is crystal clear is that founding pastor was the Rev. Thomas Sharrock Sr. Next was said to be Rev. Sessom of Harrellsville, NC, then Rev. Smith of Cofield, NC, then Rev. Tom Sharpe, then Rev. Bryant of Goldsboro, NC, then Rev. Owens of Columbia, NC, then Rev. Kenney Grant of Lasker, NC, then Rev. Charlie Sharpe of Cofield, NC, then Rev. Jenkins of Suffolk, VA.

In the late 1950s a new cinder block church was built and the old one room house was demolished. The building of the new church started in 1957. The blocks used for the church were pur-

chased from Rocky Mount Concrete for 22 cents a block. Inside building material was purchased from Jalcott. Pews were purchased from another church at that time. Rev. Frank Lee became pastor while the building of the church was taking place.

In 1964 the late Rev. James R. Wiggins became pastor. During his pastorate the church was bricked and two rooms were added on each side of the structure. Under Rev. Wiggins' leadership Beautiful Zion began to change. The congregation began to grow. Services were held on 2nd Sundays. Improvements were made for the beautification of the church. Such as water fountains, inside toiletry, as well as other things. For 30 some odd years Rev. Wiggins pastored Beautiful Zion until he retired in the mid 1990s.

In the year of 1996 Beautiful Zion was without a Shepherd. The members began to pray for a leader that would take Beautiful Zion to greater heights. Members voted to extend services from one Sunday a month to two Sundays a month. The 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. In June of 1997 Rev. Eugene D. Harris Sr. became the pastor of Beautiful Zion Baptist Church. God answered our prayers. In January of 1998 Rev. Harris was officially installed as the pastor of Beautiful Zion Baptist Church. God gave the people at Beautiful Zion another vision and that was to build a new sanctuary. In spring of 1999 we began to build this new sanctuary. In March of 2000 our

vision became a reality as we marched from the old structure to the new sanctuary singing "We're Marching Upward to Zion". Also under Pastor Harris' leadership we have had an increase in membership as well as the development of various ministries and auxiliaries. So many that I am not willing to name them all.

We've had deacons and trustees as well as members come and go, but Beautiful Zion has stood the test of time. At present date, we have five deacons: Deac. Grover Faison, Deac. General Faison, Deac. Ralph Clark, Deac. John O. Bazemore, and Deac. Raleigh Cherry, who was installed under the leadership of Pastor Harris. A vision of a past Deacon that has gone on to glory, Deac. Willie Floyd Stancil has become a reality, and that was to have a male chorus at Beautiful Zion and now we have one in which his brother, Min. Horace Stancil is a part of. We currently have six trustees, two of which are women: Sis. Clarice Wilder and Sis. Minerva Moore; the others are Bro. Daniel Bazemore, Bro. Willie Gilliam, Deac. General Faison, and Deac. Raleigh Cherry.

We also have two sons of the church Minister Horace Stancil and Rev. Herbert McNeil. Sons of the church means members of the church who became ministers of the church, and we are extremely proud of them.

In January of this year Beautiful Zion went full circle and we have service every Sunday by God's Grace. It is August 10,

See ZION, Page 12

Baptist Informer Youth Corner

Facing the Great Tempter

By Dolores Griffey

As we enter into the new year we will be tempted by many things. We have to get deeper in the Word of God and put on the whole armor of God. We will deal



Dolores Griffey

with the temptation of Jesus starting with:

Scripture Readings: Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7; Matthew 4:1-11.

The temptation of Jesus in the wilderness is recorded in two of the New Testament gospels. The version in Luke 4:1-13 presents the second and third temptation in reverse order, but is otherwise the same. The gospel of Mark says Jesus was "tempted by Satan" (Mk. 1:13) during his forty days in the wilderness, but gives no details. The gospel of John does not record that Jesus was in the wilderness for forty days, or that he was tempted by the devil.

The temptation of Jesus proves the devil, or Satan, is a real person. After all, in the scripture reading from the gospel of Matthew, as in the gospel of Luke, the devil speaks to Jesus and Jesus answers.

First century Christians took it for

granted that God and the devil were real persons. The point of the story of the temptation of Jesus does not depend on whether or not we think Satan is a real person. The story is like a bad dream, for the characters in the story represent aspects of the dreamer. And who is the "dreamer" of this story? This is not our human dream. This is God's dream.

The Spirit, we are told, (Mt. 4:1, Mk. 1:12, Lk. 4:1) led Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted, and after the devil left Jesus, "angels waited on him." (Mt. 4:11, Mk. 1:13). Twice the devil refers to Jesus as the Son of God, and Jesus resists Satan's temptation by quoting three times from the Torah, the law given by God (Deuteronomy 8:3, 6:16, and 6:13). Lest we think that the devil is acting on his own, remember that in the story of Job it is God who gives permission to Satan to put Job's faith to the test.

"We live and move and have our being," Acts 17: Our temptations, our choices, and the consequences of our choices are "in God", which is why our salvation is not simply from or because of Christ but "in Christ". In the Bible story, God suffers on the cross, as Jesus, for being the source of all temptation. Scripture reveals that, as Christ crucified, God the Great Tempter accepts responsibility for all suffering and death, so we may be freed from resentment for our suffering and our death.

For those with "ears to hear", (Mk. 4:9, 23) this is the good news of the gospel. ■

ZION, Cont'd From Page 11

2002, it is today, and God has never failed us yet. Beautiful Zion went from a one room house to a cinder block church later bricked, to our latest sanctuary. Do you think that those deacons and Rev. Sharrock could have ever envisioned what our eyes see today? Do you think that they could have ever foretold the beauty our church possesses? I think so and I believe that is the reason Beautiful Zion was given the name Beautiful Zion, because it is like no other, it is unique and one of a kind. Not the building per se,

but the people who make the church what it is. We may never know in full detail the beautiful beginnings of Beautiful Zion church. In conclusion, it gives me great pleasure to say that Beautiful Zion is my church, it is your church, it is our church. By God's grace Beautiful Zion is celebrating its centennial celebration, commemorating 100 years of praise and worship and it is our deepest most desire that Beautiful Zion will have a bi-centennial celebration where something that I have said or written will let the future of Beautiful Zion Missionary Baptist Church know its origination. ■

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Gerontology

By Dr. Elbert Lee

How can gerontology help to contribute to a better way of life for the elderly? Dr. Elbert Lee, a consultant to the Institute on Gerontological Ministries and Services, Shaw Divinity School, seeks to



Dr. Elbert Lee

provide answers in the discipline of gerontology, a program that he initiated and conducted for a number of years at the school. From biology, psychology, sociology, economics, political theory, medicine, health care delivery, philosophy and religion,

facts have been collected to improve the quality of life for the aged. Dr. Lee brings his insights from these areas to help equip students for ministry to the aged.

It is Dr. Lee's contention that the Shaw Divinity School is in a unique position, for it is one of the few seminaries in the country that offers a curriculum in gerontology for ministers and religious workers.

Dr. Lee notes that there is a faculty of well-trained personnel in ministry that can provide for services to older adults, especially so among blacks involved in local parish ministries. The program of gerontological ministries developed out of the interest of former students, who saw the need for receiving some formal training in gerontology and geriatrics, and persons from Wake and neighboring counties who saw similar needs.

Today, there are numerous students enrolled in the gerontology program, thanks to the hard work and dedication of Dr. Lee. We salute him for bringing such an outstanding and innovated program to the Divinity School.

Doctors study the illnesses of older people, biologists study the physical changes aging brings to the cells of the body, psychiatrists study mental illness among older people, psychologists study age changes in sensory perception, economists study the income requirements of older people, architects design special housing for older people, and the sociologists study the relationship between older people and their society and culture. Almost every area of study dealing with man or his needs has a branch which deals with older man. All of these tiny branches of these many fields come together under the name of gerontology – literally the logic of aging.

There are four related but separate

aspects to the study of aging. The biological aspect deals with physical aging – the body's gradual loss of the ability to renew itself. The psychological aspect deals with the sensory processes, perception, motor skills, intelligence, problem-solving, understanding, learning, drives, and emotions of the aging individual. The biological and psychological changes, which occur with advancing age coupled with the social environment of the individual, produce a third aspect – the behavioral. This aspect of aging deals with attitudes, expectations, motives, the self-image, social roles, personality, and psychological adjustment to the situation. Finally, the sociological aspect of aging deals with the society in which aging occurs, the influence this society has on the aging individual, and the influence he has on it. The older person's health, income, work, and leisure, as these relate to his family, friends, voluntary associations, and religious groups, as well as to society in general, the economy, the government, and the community are all part of the sociology of aging.

These four aspects of aging – biological, psychological, behavioral, and sociological – are all interrelated in the life of any older person.

Shaw Divinity School

- Institute of Gerontological Ministries and Services
- Motto "Looking at Aging Professionally and Theologically"

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The Church and Gerontology offers:

- A Christian perspective on aging.
- A spiritual pilgrimage.
- A program for older adults in the church.
- Community concerns for the aging. (a handbook about care in the home)
- Information on Home Health Services.
- Evaluating the Quality of Home Care Services.
- How to arrange a Homebound Person's Environment.
- Setting Goals and Objectives for Church Programs.
- Nutritional concerns.

This program will feature the following:

- Physical Fitness/Exercise Program.
- Theological courses will be offered at the Shaw Divinity School for the Master Degree and Diploma Program.
- Support Groups for certain days of the week.

By Dr. A. T. Griffey, III, Statistician

Peace Be Unto You:

A word of Thanks for your support in electing me as your Statistician for the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc. My Promise is to do my best with the help of the Almighty . . . One goal is to evangelize 10,000 souls through Monthly Devotions in the Baptist Informer and Weekly Devotions through an e-mail data base for General Baptist Churches. Here is the first of many more to come.

"Never Let them Forget"

After wandering through the desert for forty years, Joshua led the nation of Israel across the Jordan River and set out to conquer the land of Canaan. Joshua had seen God lead the nation out of slavery in Egypt. He had witnessed the parting of the Red Sea and God's provision of food while in the desert. As the Israelites were led into the promised land, Joshua and the entire nation saw God answer their prayers and give them many victories in battle.

During this time of conquest, the nation was relatively united as they worshipped and served God. This generation had first hand experience of His majesty and power; and of His love and concern for His children. However, when Joshua and the current generation died, things quickly changed.

Judges 2:10 — "After that whole generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation grew up, who knew neither the Lord nor what He had done for Israel."

In a single generation, the people forgot! In a single generation, the people lost their respect for God, their desire to worship, and their belief that the Lord was the one true God. How could a generation who walked in fellowship with God fail to transfer the message of truth? How could parents who knew God with such intimacy fail to teach their children who He was and how to love Him?

We who have been brought into the Light must diligently share our faith with others; "Tell it to your children, and let your children tell it to their children, and their children to the next generation" (Joel 1:3). Our children and our friends will never receive the gift of eternal life on the basis of our faith; they must be told of God's love and come to Him through a deep and personal faith in Jesus.

We all know specific individuals who desperately need to know of His saving grace. We all know fellow believers who need to be encouraged in their faith; "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds" (Hebrews 10:24). Our churches are often gatherings for the depressed and troubled who have forgotten (or never heard) of

the miraculous and loving works of God; may we never become silent about what He has done and continues to do!

We must never lose the awe of the incredible gift we have been given in Jesus. His sacrifice radically changes our eternity! We must allow the understanding of this gift to so fill our hearts that we are compelled to share His on-going gift with those we love and those God places in our path. We who have begun our walk with Christ should continually share our walk with others. We serve an AWE-

SOME God – never let them forget.

Have a great day!

Peace Be Unto You From Dr. A. Thomas Griffey, III, Pastor

Dr.griffey@mtcarmel-ws.org

Our goal is to reach 7500 souls for Christ by the end of this year! (Reached It)

Please share the Word of God with someone you love or that is in need of an uplifting word . . .

The Fellowship of the Unashamed

We are the fellowship of the unashamed.
We have the Holy Spirit power.
The die has been cast.
We have stepped over the line.
The decision has been made.
We are disciples of Jesus.
We won't look back, let up, slow down or back away.
Our past is redeemed.
Our present makes sense, Our future secure.
We are finished and done with low living, sight-walking, small planning, smooth knees, colorless dreams, tame division, mundane talking, cheap giving and dwarf goals.
We no longer need preeminence, position, promotion, plaudits, or popularity.
We don't have to be right.
We don't have to be first.
We don't have to be recognized, praised, or rewarded.
We live by faith, lean on His presence, walk by patience, lift by prayer, and labor by power.
Our face is set, our gait is fast, our goal is Heaven.
Our road is narrow, our way is rough, our companions few.
Our Guide reliable – Our mission clear.
We cannot be bought, compromised, detoured, lured away, turned back, deluded or delayed.
We will not flinch in the face of sacrifice, hesitate in the presence of the adversary, negotiate at the table of the enemy, ponder at the pool of popularity, meander in the maze of mediocrity.
We won't give up, shut up, let up.
Until we've,
Stayed up, stored up, prayed up, paid up,
preached up for the cause of Christ.
We are Servants For Christ!

The author of this is unknown. It has appeared in many places and publications.

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"He's More God Than I Ever Need"*

Faith and Fitness

The Status of Our Health

Reduce Your Risk of Cancer

By Charolette H. Leach, BS. M. S.

Happy New Year to all!! I pray that the blessings of God are with you in this New Year. This first Faith & Fitness article of 2003 will highlight information



Charolette Leach

colorectal cancer.

Defining Cancer

The simplest definition of cancer, as supplied by the American Cancer Society, is cancer is a group of diseases characterized by uncontrolled growth and spread of abnormal cells.

Each human body, and all living things are made up of cells. Each of us is made up of trillions of cells. The most fundamental characteristic of cells is their ability to reproduce themselves, by dividing. One cell becomes two, the two becomes four, and so on. The division of normal healthy cells takes place to supply material needed for normal growth or to replace worn-out or injured cells. A cut finger requires that cells divide rapidly until the tissue is healed and the skin repaired. After the healing, the cells will go back to their normal rate of division.

In contrast, cancer cells divide in a haphazard manner and these cells pile up into a non-structured mass or tumor. This mass can be benign or malignant. A benign mass remains in the part of the body that it originates and frequently is completely enclosed in a protective capsule of tissue and normally poses no danger to human life. A malignant tumor,

however, which is considered cancerous, destroys the part of the body in which it originates and then spreads to other parts where they start new growth and cause more destruction. Cancer is often referred to as a single condition, but it actually consists of more than 100 different diseases, which are characterized by uncontrolled growth and spread by abnormal cells.

Causes of Cancer

Experts agree that most cancer is developed through repeated or prolonged contact with one or more carcinogens. A carcinogen, which is simply a cancer-causing agent, is divided into three groups. These are chemicals, radiation, and viruses.

One chemical carcinogen is found in the tars of tobacco smoke. Even though lung cancer was not addressed in the article, it should be noted that cigarette smoking is the principal cause of lung cancer and causes or helps to cause other cancers, including cancers of the mouth and pharynx, larynx, trachea, esophagus, pancreas, kidney, bladder, and cervix.

Another chemical carcinogen is certain natural food chemicals. Some chemicals naturally present in food may become a cancer threat if consumed in large quantities. **Please note that diets high in fat have been associated with cancers of the breast, colon, and prostate gland.** It has also been shown that diets rich in fruits, vegetables, and whole-grain breads and cereals seem to reduce the risks of certain cancers.

Breast, Prostate, and Colon Cancer & the African American Population

Why did Ebony target breast, prostate, and colon cancer in this article? One, because breast cancer is the most common cancer among African American women and more than 19,000 new cases were expected to occur in 2002. African American men are 70 percent more likely to develop prostate cancer and twice as likely to die from it than their white counterparts. The American Cancer Society estimates that 25,300 African American

men were diagnosed with prostate cancer in 2001 and that 6,100 died from it.

Colon cancer strikes African American men and women alike. We have the highest rate of colon cancer of all ethnic groups. Some 14,000 Blacks were diagnosed with the disease in 2001, and 6,800 died from it.



Dr. Anita Holmes

Some steps to fight these cancers

All three of these cancers are different, but ways to reduce your risk of developing them and increasing your survival rate, are similar.

Reduce the amount of fat in your diet

A change in diet may reduce the risks of developing these cancers. Diets high in fat contain chemical carcinogens that increase the risks of these cancers. Improving the nutritional value of what we eat has been shown to be very beneficial to us for so many reasons. It can help with lowering our blood pressure; it can help with lowering our cholesterol, which in turn can reduce our risks for heart disease and diabetes. Now we know that it can also reduce our risk of these three cancers that are prevalent in our population. There are too many benefits to be gained from reducing the fat in our diets to ignore this need.

Get your screenings

For all three of these cancers, early

detection is critical. For breast cancer, routine mammograms (x-rays of the breast), annual clinical breast examinations by your health care provider and monthly breast self-examinations are the tools needed. African American men 45 or older should begin taking an annual prostate-specific antigen (PSA) test, along with a digital rectal exam and have regular checkups. Those with fathers or brothers with the disease should start at the age of 40. African American men and women should be screened for colon cancer if they are 50 years or older, smoke, have a family or personal history of colon cancer or any colon disease, and get little or no exercise and eat a high-fat, low-fiber diet.

The American Cancer Society has established the following seven common symptoms that could lead to a diagnosis of cancer. A person that has these symptoms for more than two weeks should consult a physician promptly.

A change in bowel habits or bladder function.

Sores that do not heal.

Unusual bleeding or discharge.

Thickening or lump in breast or other parts of the body.

Indigestion or difficulty swallowing.

Recent change in a wart or mole.

A nagging cough or hoarseness.

Please insure that you are doing all that you can to avoid or minimize the effects of these cancers on your health. Ask God for guidance and strength and then give Him the glory for what He does. **Be Blessed!**

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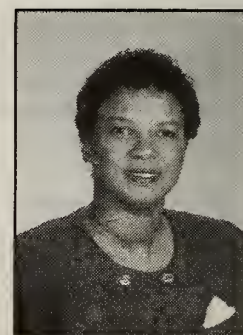
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DR. WILLETTE CAMPBELL WOOTEN



Mud Creek Missionary Baptist Installs New Officers

Submitted by Diantha Harris

ASHEVILLE, NC — On Tuesday, November 19, 2002, the Mud Creek Missionary Baptist Association held its Fall One-Day Session at the H. B. Ferguson Assembly Hall, East Flat Rock, North Carolina. The newly elected officers were installed at this session. Dr. Charles R. Mosley was in charge of the installation ceremonies.

The Association's new officers are: Rev. James E. Roberts, Moderator; Rev. James Hunter, Vice Moderator-at-Large; Elder Alfred E. Blount, 1st Vice Moderator; Rev. T. Richard Pea, 2nd Vice Moderator; Mrs. Catherine R. Whipple, Secretary; Mrs. Zelma Massey, Treasurer; Ms. Helen White, Historian; Rev. Clydell Johnson, Parliamentarian; and Trustees Rev. Henry Miller, Deacon T. R. Douglas, Rev. Ronald Sullivan, Rev. Odell Suber Sr., Mrs. Stephanie Twitty, Rev. James

Lytle, and Rev. Benjamin Watkins.

After the Executive Board Meeting a dialogue with pastors and ministers was held on Moderator Roberts' theme: *"The Challenge Is The Same: Back To Basics, Moving From The Past, To The Present, To Higher Heights"*. Moderator Roberts challenged all pastors and ministers to move from dissensions and separations back to unity, love, and brotherhood. Fulfilling our missionary duties for the up building of our savior's kingdom.

The session ended with a very spirit-filled Praise and Worship Service with Dr. Nilous M. Avery, retired pastor of Hill Street Baptist Church, as our guest preacher. His powerful sermon, "I Am A Debtor", (Romans 1:14-15) lifted the spirits of all in attendance. Music was provided by the Hill Street Young Adult Choir.



Mud Creek Missionary Baptist Association
Newly Installed Officers

(L to R) Rev. T. R. Pea, 2nd Vice Moderator, Elder A. T. Blount, 1st Vice Moderator, Rev. J. Hunter, Vice Moderator-at-Large, Rev. J. E. Roberts, Moderator

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Intercessory Prayer

By Rev. Chester Debnam, Jr.

"Joy to the world! The Lord is come! Let earth receive her King, Let every heart prepare Him room, And heaven and nature sing . . ." Nature has sung a song, Lord Jesus, and through your power, it has declared your truth. All power in heaven and earth is in Thy hands: Power to root out and tear down; power to rip down power lines and send vehicles swirling out of control. We have heard the song of an ice storm and we cry out, "What manner of man is this that all of nature obeys?"

Lord God we thank you for the songs planted in our hearts, even when we were little children, "Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head . . ." Lord, thank you for the coming of your Son. And thank you, for in the fullness of time, He shall return again to receive His own. Thank you Lord for those who are keeping the faith while languishing on their sick beds and they too cry out, "Joy to the world! The Lord is come!"

We confess Lord that we have had our periods of doubts and fears, but with a little more grace and a little more faith, we

cry out, "Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart . . ." (Psalms 27:14). Touch our minds and touch our hearts so we will know how and what to pray for. Thank you for your Spirit which makes intercession for us with groanings, for we know not what we should pray for as we ought. Give those among us a burden to stand in the gap for those who are weak. For your words are clear, "We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak . . ." (Romans 15:1). Lord we thank you for the weak among us, because if we search ourselves and search ourselves rightly, we will conclude that we all undergo times of weakness, times of doubt, and times of fear.

Lord you've watched over and kept us in spite of ourselves. You have not let our valleys outnumber our mountaintops . . . Thank you for the man who will declare your truth this morning. Lord put another double dose of Holy Ghost on him and a double dose of Holy Ghost on us so that we may receive the truth that you have given to us . . . For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever, and ever, in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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Dr. Bullock, Dr. Everett, President Clinton, Attorney Willie Gary, Dr. Logan



William Jefferson Clinton, 42nd President of the United States



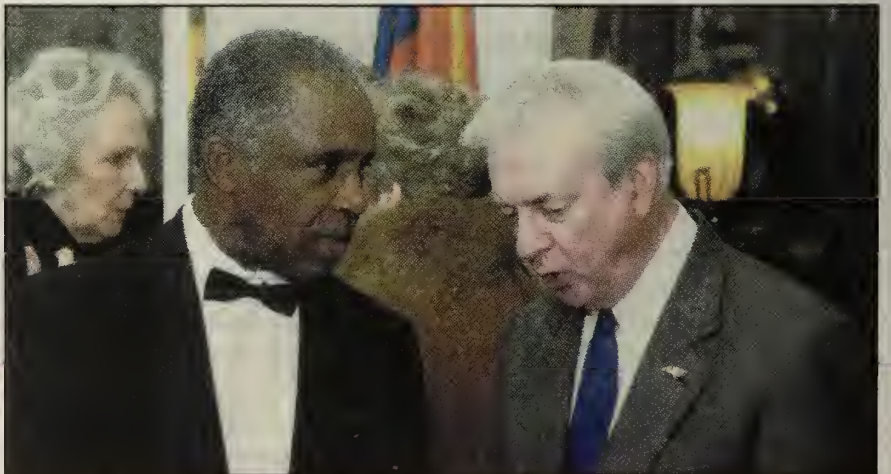
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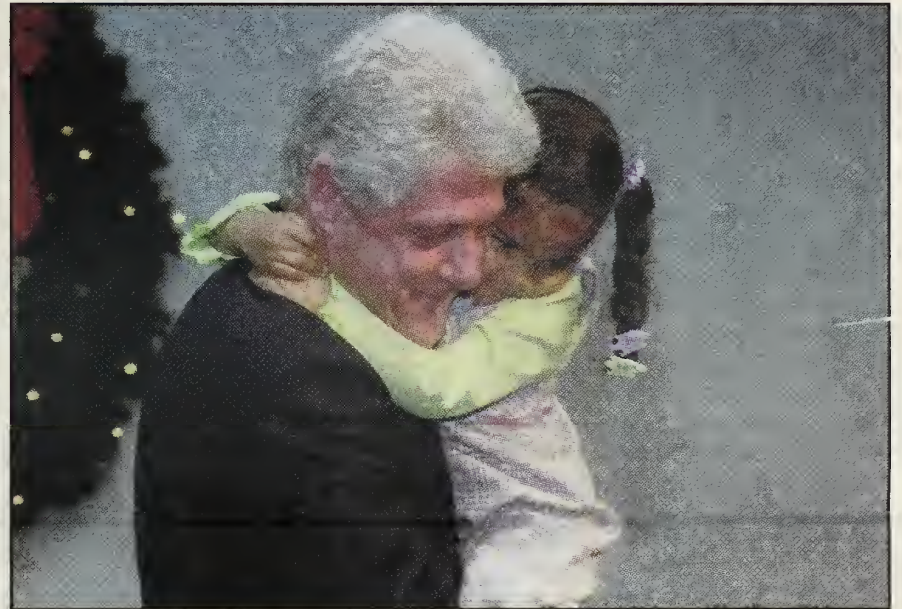


Dr. Charles Bullock and Former Governor Jim Hunt

HIGHLIGHTS



Dr. Bullock, Dexter Perry, Dr. Logan



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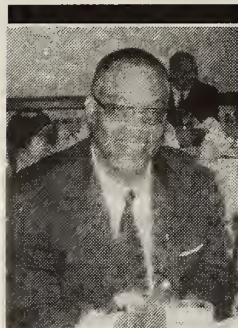
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Chris Hinton

Call for GBSC Churches – Support NC Prison Chaplains

Michael R. Smith, Sr., Chairman
Jeff Locus, Co-Chairman

I am calling for all GBSC Pastors, Moderators, Church leaders and prison volunteers to rally and give support to the crisis facing NC full-time state funded



Rev. Michael Smith, Sr.

chaplains. Presently, the NC legislature is pursuing an illogical direction of cutting prison chaplain positions due to the budget crisis. Already over 20 chaplain positions were cut and in 2003 a study will determine

whether to keep the remaining full-time chaplain positions. The study results are supposed to be shared in the March 2003 legislative session and action taken by the new state fiscal year in July 2003. This is a major threat to ministry in specialized settings like prisons. **I CALL ALL GBSC LEADERS TO NOT IGNORE OR BE SILENT, BUT TO CONTACT YOUR STATE SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES AND TELL THEM WE WANT FULL-TIME CHAPLAINS IN OUR PRISONS. ALSO, WE WANT THE OVER 20 CHAPLAIN POSITIONS RESTORED THAT WERE LOST IN 2002.**

As an appointed member of the NC Advisory Committee on Religious Ministry in Prisons, I am in the process of drafting a formal response based on past studies where this action was taken in other states. This committee serves the NC Department of Corrections for the purpose of improving religious services within the Division of Prisons and advis-

es the Director of Prisons. This committee needs the support and voices of all church organizations and prison ministries that value ministry in specialized settings. What is at stake is the ability to have direct access to lives impacted by crime and incarceration that desperately need the Gospel of Jesus Christ and a pastoral presence to guide them in their spiritual growth. The only answer to crime and incarceration is the Cross of Christ where justice and mercy kissed and resulted in the redemption of lost humanity. This is ultimately spiritual warfare and what is at stake are the souls of the "least of these" in our society. Our Father God and the Lord Jesus Christ care deeply for all humanity. Christian chaplains are the voices, hands and feet inside prison walls that make real the love of God through Christ to the incarcerated. Chaplains make up one of the smallest groups of state funded persons, yet carry out the only work that can transform a criminal's heart from crime (sin) to walk with Christ into contribution. The GBSC can make a difference by being voice to those in authority. In addition to your own state representatives, here are key representatives to notify:

William T. Culpepper, III, Bill@ncleg.net
R. Phillip Haire, Phillip@ncleg.net
Ruth M. Easterling, Ruthe@ncleg.net
Warren C. Oldman, Warreno@ncleg.net
Gregory J. Thompson, Greggt@ncleg.net
Patrick Ballentine, Patrickb@ncleg.net
Scott Thomas, Scottt@ncleg.net

The GBSC has long invested in the ministry of prison chaplains who now need our help as never before. Let our voices be heard in local newspapers, radio talk shows and especially from our pulpits. ■

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Carolyn Brown, Coordinator of Aftercare Ministries

Associate Minister – North End Baptist Church, Rocky Mount, NC
Laura Johnson, Coordinator of Victim Ministries
Assistant Pastor – First Baptist Church, Zebulon, NC
Leonard Shadding, Coordinator of Victim Services
Member – First African Baptist Church, Goldsboro, NC
Michael Pope, Coordinator At-Risk Youth Ministries
Associate Minister – Oak City Baptist Church, Raleigh, NC
Wavey B. Williams, Coordinator of At-Risk Youth Ministries
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Pastors Celebrate GBSC Adoption Sunday

By Earl Horton
Director of Public Relations
GBSC Adoption and Foster Care Ministry

As you may recall from a previous article November is always observed as National Adoption Awareness Month. During this month of recognizing children



Earl Horton

who need homes to call their own, the GBSC Adoption and Foster Care Ministry had asked for support of pastors by devoting a morning sermon or briefly discuss about adoption during Sunday morning service.

The purpose of GBSC's Adoption Sunday was to spread awareness to increase the number of singles and couples willing to adopt African American children. On November 24th the Reverend Dr. G.A. Jones Jr. pastor of Faith Missionary Baptist in Raleigh and the Reverend Daimon Rawlinson pastor of Red Branch Missionary Baptist Church in Mint Hill observed GBSC Adoption Sunday at their perspective churches by devoting a sermon or praising adoption during morning service. These two ministers delivered their messages of adoption differently to their congregations.

Dr. Jones discussed with his congregation during his pastoral announcements during the service. He praised the GBSC Adoption and Foster Care Ministry for the work that has been done thus far in recruiting families for children in the child welfare system. He expressed his concerned over the high percentage of African-American children that are in need of permanent homes.

"They need our love", Jones mentioned in his discussion with his congregation.

When speaking to him about his observance of his congregation learning about the great need of adoption he says that they were very sympathetic especially when the statistics of children presently in the child welfare system are African American. He has pledged the support of Faith Missionary Baptist Church of recruiting families and also welcome the children into their spiritual family with open arms and love.

"I urge pastors to continue to bring awareness of adoption and foster care from their pulpits and educate your congregation about the need of identifying

families for children wanting a family to call their own" says Jones.

The Reverend Daimon Rawlinson dedicated a sermon to his congregation at Mint Hill Missionary Baptist Church to observed GBSC Adoption Sunday. His sermon was entitled "Are You Kin To Jesus". In his sermon, he spoke on how everyone is adopted into the body of Christ. "We are considered as step children", he says. Rawlinson, tied in adoption into his sermon by discussing the status of children presently in the child welfare system. He shared with them the facts sent to pastors about adoption from the GBSC Adoption and Foster Care Ministry. "When I discussed these facts with my congregation, they shouted and praised the lord that Red Branch is stepping forward to help God's children".

In **Ephesians 4: 11-12** reads- **And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers. For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ. These two scriptures state that the pastor must be willing to equip and empower others for the work of the ministry.**

Both Jones and Rawlinson empowered their congregations to consider adoption. They recruited families from their churches during the last Sunday of GBSC Adoption Sunday to observe National Adoption Month. Both pastors will receive a special praise from the ministry for their efforts in recruiting families during November.

The level of commitment of all pastors was a critical factor of making the campaign of GBSC Adoption Sunday a success. The extent to which pastors includes GBSC in their sermons and relates it to their church's ongoing missions and the gospel to get families in their congregations to realize the importance of the African American community of children needing families who would nurture, care and love them. I am aware in some churches the pastors responsibility and schedule may prevent their direct involvement in such campaigns like this for example. They may delegate a respected leader or committee in the church to be responsible of recruiting families for adoption and foster care. Ultimately, the pastor's leadership is the most important than any factor, for the success of any church program or mission.

In **I Timothy 3:1** states - *This is true saying, if a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth good work. Acts 20:28* states- *Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the*



Introducing Robin and Jeffrey...

Robin and Jeffrey are very close and hope to find a family that will understand, accept and love them both.

A Closer Look at Robin...

Robin is an attractive young lady with big hazel eyes. She has a sweet disposition and she likes to please others. Robin likes country music and rodeos, riding her bike and playing video games. She has taken ballet lessons in the past and she hopes she can take them again some time. Robin also likes to help out with the younger children in her foster home. Robin has some developmental delays that, combined with changing schools five times in one year, made it necessary for her to be detained a grade. She attends

special resource classes to get the additional attention she needs to be successful on her own level.

Birthday: October 12, 1991

A Closer Look at Jeffrey...

Jeffrey is a pleasant young man who likes to please adults and play with animals. His favorite activities take place outside where he can often be found skate boarding, riding his bike or playing basketball.

Fishing and camping top the list, too, and he loves to do both whenever possible. Jeffrey had the opportunity to be a Boy Scout in the past and he enjoyed that a great deal. Developmental delays make school somewhat difficult for Jeffrey, with math being a particularly tough challenge. Reading is his favorite subject in his specialized classroom where he is able to work at his own level. Birthday: May 26, 1990

A Family for Robin and Jeffrey...

These wonderful children have had a very difficult past, but they are working on understanding their experiences and learning appropriate behaviors. It is necessary that their adoptive family be familiar with children as victims of child abuse and have a detailed safety plan in place for them. Their family must provide them with supervision, structure, boundaries and consistency. Robin and Jeffrey also need lots of patience, love and nurturing. (NC #099-1798) (NC #099-1797)

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See ADOPTION, Page 20

ADOPTION, Cont'd From Page 19

which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. The Pastor is the congregation's overseer. An overseer is the person responsible for the entire operation. It does not mean that he is responsible for ensuring that things are done properly. Pastors have members in their congregation who can and who are willing to work in the name of the church to recruit families who are serious about adoption or foster care. They can be more involved and can plan activities that the pastor

could not plan because of the other responsibilities of the church that must under his direct authority.

With the leadership of the pastor and with the work of the churches coming together trying to recruit families for African American children there could be a drastic decrease of children in the child welfare system.

If there are any other pastors that participated with the adoption awareness month campaign through their morning sermon or announcement please bring your contribution to my attention so that I may share your support with our readers.



Dr. and Mrs. G.A. Jones, Jr. of Faith Missionary Baptist Church, Raleigh

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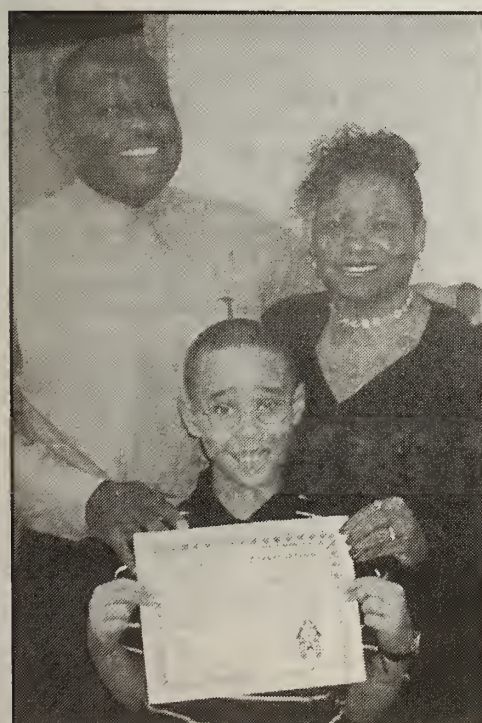
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Adoption and Foster Care Highlights



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Don't Get Scrooged: Holiday Shopping Tips

By Attorney General Roy Cooper

As we cherish our loved ones and give thanks for all that we have during the holiday season, it's important to make sure our gift-giving dollars are well spent. For



Carol
Smith

many consumers, a trip to the store is a holiday tradition. Rather than fight the crowds, some holiday shoppers prefer to browse online or order by mail from catalogs. Regardless of where you go in search of gifts,

keep these tips in mind to keep from feeling more like Scrooge than Santa:

- **Learn about refund and return policies.** Some companies may accept returned merchandise but they are not required to do so by law. Many retailers will offer you store credit instead of a cash refund. Also, ask if the store charges a "restocking fee" for returned merchandise. If your purchase came by mail, you might have to pay postage to return it.

- **Buy from established retailers.** A well-established store is more likely to still be in business if you need to return a gift or make an exchange. This is also important if you give gift certificates or gift cards. With catalogs and web sites, it is also wise to stick with familiar names. Beware of unsolicited telephone calls, emails or catalogs from vendors you've never heard of. You can check up on a company by calling my office at (919) 716-6000 or contacting your local Better Business Bureau.

- **Consider paying by credit card** to improve your chances of getting a refund if the retailer goes out of business. If the gift certificate you purchased has not yet been used and the company has closed its doors, you may be able to dispute the charge if you paid by credit card. And if you order a gift that never arrives, you'll be able to dispute the charge. Also, if your credit card is stolen or used by an unauthorized person, federal law limits your liability to \$50. Some credit card companies offer additional protection for buyers.

- **Ask when your order will arrive.** Internet and catalog shoppers alike are

protected by the Federal Mail Order Rule. By law, a company is required to ship your order within the time stated in its catalog or on its web site. If they don't give you a timeline, they have 30 days to ship your purchase once they have received your order. If the seller can't ship the item within that time, they must notify you and give you a chance to cancel the order for a full refund.

- **Hang on to receipts.** Save your receipts in case the gifts you bought need to be returned or exchanged. If you buy online, print pages that show what you have purchased. When ordering by mail or telephone, be sure to ask the company to send you an invoice or receipt. Some retailers can provide you with a gift receipt that makes it easier for the gift opener to return that sweater if it doesn't fit or isn't the right color.

- **Guard your privacy.** You keep your wallet in a safe place when you shop at local stores. It is just as important to keep an eye on personal information when you shop on the web or by mail order. Before you provide any personal information, find out about the company's privacy policy. Also, make sure the company uses a secure server that will protect any personal information in your order. An unbroken key or padlock symbol at the bottom of the browser window means you're shopping on a secure site. If the business doesn't have a policy or you aren't comfortable with the way they may use your personal information, take your business elsewhere.

- **Protect your identity.** Never give out your Social Security, driver's license or bank account numbers when someone calls you on the phone. While a credit card can be a great way to order by phone or Internet, you should never give out your credit card number to an unknown telemarketer.

And finally, to avoid starting the New Year in debt, buy only what you can afford. Each January, my Consumer Protection office sees a sharp rise in calls from consumers who are dealing with debt collectors because of unpaid bills. If you don't overspend, you can hold on to that good holiday cheer right into the next year.

Attorney General Roy Cooper and his staff work from January through December to help North Carolinians make smart shopping choices and avoid scams. We are here to be of service when you need us, but through education efforts like these columns we hope to help consumers avoid problems from the start. ■

Progressive National Baptist Convention USA, Inc. Progressive National Baptist - Mid Winter Board Meeting

January 16, 2003 - January 26, 2003

FAX RESERVATION DIRECTLY TO
WYNDHAM MYRTLE BEACH RESORT:

843-449-3216 (Fax)

or
CALL THE WYNDHAM MYRTLE BEACH RESORT:

843-449-5000
1-877-887-9549 (Toll Free)

RATE: \$70.00 SINGLE
\$70.00 DOUBLE

PLUS 10% OCCUPANCY TAX
PLUS 7% RESORT SERVICES

PLEASE MAKE RESERVATION BY:

December 31, 2002 12:01AM

Group rate will be honored 3 days pre and post convention dates based on availability. Also group rates honored until above date or until group block is filled, whichever occurs first.

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

ARRIVAL DATE: _____ TIME: _____

DEPARTURE DATE: _____ Check-In Time: 4:00pm
Check-Out Time: 12:00 Noon

SMOKING _____ NON-SMOKING _____

GUARANTEED RESERVATIONS

Reservation request must be received by **12/31/02 12:00:00 AM**. After this date, rooms are subject to availability and regular room rates. If the contracted number of rooms is filled prior to the above date, rooms are again subject to availability and regular room rates, so please reserve early.

CREDIT CARD GUARANTEE: (please circle one)

M/C VISA AMERICAN EXPRESS DINER'S CLUB DISCOVER

CARD# _____ EXP. DATE: _____

Early Departure Fee of \$50.00 will be applied for checkouts earlier than scheduled date. Cancellations must be received five (5) days prior to arrival for full refund.

SIGNATURE: _____

* Form may be faxed or returned by mail.

HOTEL MAILING ADDRESS
Wyndham Myrtle Beach Resort
10,000 Beach Club Drive
Myrtle Beach, SC 29572

Save the Date!

Shaw University Divinity School
And

Old North State Medical Society

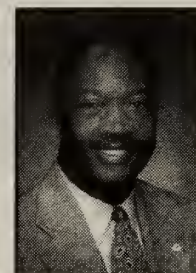
Cordially invite you to unite with us for

*Health Enhancement through Medicine and Spirituality
as we work together on behalf of
Mobilizing Resources in the African American Community to
Address and Eliminate Health Disparities with*

John Ruffin, Ph.D., Director

National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities,
National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland

Dr. Ruffin has devoted his professional life to improving the health status of minority populations in the United States and to developing and supporting education programs for minority researchers and health care practitioners. Dr. Ruffin has developed over 100 collaborative research studies and 30 research training programs. He manages the Center's staff, its \$158 million budget and the implementation of the Center's statutorily mandated programs in health disparities.



Dr. John Ruffin

Saturday, February 1, 2003
8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Shaw University
816 S. East Street
Raleigh, NC 27601

"Strides to Excellence: Why Not the Best?"

www.gbesc.org

Thank You!

Reverend Eric Harris
J.J. Johnson Camp Superintendent

To GBSC, WBH&FM FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Thank you for all your prayers and words of encouragement throughout the year. A special *thank you* goes out to the following: The New Hope Missionary Baptist Church of Apex, Pastor Marcus V. Ingram for donating a brand new sound system for the J.J. Johnson Baptist Assembly Chapel; the Johnston Piney Grove Baptist Church, Pastor Theodore Breeden for the new ice machine and other valuable support given throughout the year.

To Bethlehem Baptist Church, Laurinburg, Jones Chapel, Laurinburg, Star of Bethlehem, Laurinburg, Bright Hopewell, Carolina Park First Baptist, St. Johns of Aberdeen, Pastor Jimmy Gilchrist, Shiloh, Maxton, Pastor H. E.

Edwards, Clarks Grove Baptist Church of Mt. Gilead, Pee Dee Association, St. Johns Association, a special *thank you* for all your support.

To the following pastors, J. C. McLean, Robert Williams, Stanley Webster, Garland Pierce and T. R. Davis, John McQueen, *thank you* for your support and counsel. To all auxiliary presidents and bible camp workers for the marvelous activities you participated in for the cause of Christ. A special *thank you* to Dr. Priscilla Brodie and Dr. Archie D. Logan for all their advice and counsel. There were many churches that gave support that I am aware of, because their children came and sang praises, prayed prayers, read scriptures and studied God's word. So if your particular fellowship was not mentioned, please accept my humble apology and keep praying on our behalf.

Current Annual Events

During the course of the year, the Conventional Family sponsors different ministries at the J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly. Among these are the following:

- ♦ Vacation Bible School (GBSC) – March
- ♦ Ministers' Wives Retreat (WBSC) – May
- ♦ Laymen's League Mini-Skills Retreat (GBSC) – May
- ♦ Leadership Training Conference (GBSC) – June
- ♦ Youth Bible Camp (WBSC) – June
- ♦ Laymen's League Boy's Summer Retreat (GBSC) – July
- ♦ Laymen's League Scouting Jamboree (GBSC) – August
- ♦ Laymen's League Men's Retreat (GBSC) – September
- ♦ North Carolina Branch of the 9th and 10th Calvary (Buffalo Soldiers) – October
- ♦ Usher's Retreat/Workshop (GBSC) – November
- ♦ Laymen's League Planning Session – December

The campus is available year round for meetings, weddings, banquets, family reunions, and other activities. Contact Eric Harris for the policies and procedures regarding each type of event.

Send Applications & Funds to:
General Baptist State Convention
J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly
603 S. Wilmington Street
Raleigh, NC 27601

(Make checks payable to J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly)

Sources: "1974" Brochure and the J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly Guide And Handbook (1985).

J.J. JOHNSON BAPTIST ASSEMBLY INFORMATION

The Site:

The J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly is a tract of land comprising seventy-five (75) or more acres, much of which is covered with a mixture of North Carolina Pine, red and white oak trees. The location of the Baptist Assembly is on more than 75 rolling acres in Laurel Hill, North Carolina in Scotland County.

In 1967, approximately two-thirds of the acreage was donated by Dr. and Mrs. Joy J. Johnson and their daughter, Deborah (Mrs. Alexander Killiens). Additional acres were purchased by the Woman's Convention and General Baptist State Convention.

Our Purpose:

The purpose of the J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly in Laurel Hill is to provide a setting that is Christian in its atmosphere and is conducive to learning, worship, and meeting the needs of all individuals whom we serve. It seeks to provide opportunities for everyone to learn habits of good citizenship, and it provides at the same time opportunities to reach a maximum potential for Christian fellowship and fun experiences through democratic ideals and living.

The facility exists for the exclusive use by religious groups and/or organizations with similar aims regardless of ethnic origin.

Meeting Facilities:

At the J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly, there are various meeting facilities available. Listed below are the seating capacity (theater style) and lodging:

- ♦ Rowan Association Chapel Seating Capacity: 300-400
- ♦ Horne Lodge Seating Capacity: 20-25, Sleeps 12
- ♦ Alston Lodge Seating Capacity: 100, Sleeps 64
- ♦ Lumber Bridge Association Lodge Seating Capacity: 100, Sleeps 64
- ♦ Brown Assembly Dining Hall Seating Capacity: 200

(Cafeteria Style)

Individuals should bring their own linen, blankets, soap and other toiletries for the lodging facilities.

"And gathered them out of the lands, from the east, and from the west, from the north, and from the south." Psalm 107:3

Recreation

If people are interested in recreation, the following activities are available:

- ♦ Softball*
- ♦ Basketball*
- ♦ Swimming
- ♦ Croquet*
- ♦ Horse Shoes*
- ♦ Volleyball*
- ♦ Hiking

*You will need to provide your own recreation equipment.

Food Service

Meals are available upon request for all activities held at the site, including breaks, receptions, luncheons and banquets. Prices are discussed upon request. Also, you may provide your own meals.

Information & Reservations

For Information and Applications contact:

Eric Harris, Acting Superintendent

P. O. Box 365

Laurel Hill, NC 28351

Telephone: (910) 462-2444 / Fax: (910) 462-3440

(PLEASE CONTACT CHURCHES FOR SPECIFIC QUALIFICATIONS SOME REQUIRE 3 OR MORE YEARS PASTORAL EXPERIENCE, SEMINARY TRAINING, MISSIONARY BAPTIST ORDINATION, MUSICAL SKILLS) (FOR SPECIFIC CHURCH QUALIFICATIONS CONTACT THE PULPIT COMMITTEE)

PASTORS

GUILDFIELD M.B. CHURCH – New Bern, NC: currently accepting applications for a Pastor. Guildfield M.B. Church is an established church with a rich heritage in Eastern North Carolina. It is a growing congregation with active ministries focusing on the youth, senior citizens, the musical department, and Christian Education activities. Regular worship services are held every Sunday morning at 11:00 a.m. The church has membership in the Old Eastern Missionary Baptist Association.

PASTORAL DUTIES

- Serve as Senior Pastor and preach the Gospel
- Provide insight for spiritual growth of the church and outreach efforts
- Plan and implement Christian education opportunities for the membership
- Serve as an ex-officio member of all church auxiliaries
- Provide leadership to associate ministers affiliated with the church

QUALIFICATIONS

- Must be saved and have a personal relationship with the Lord
- Must be ordained to preach and be able to serve as an administrator of a local congregation
- Must possess interpersonal skills that facilitate interaction with church members and various community resources
- Must possess leadership abilities
- Must have personal stamina and enthusiasm to encourage the spiritual growth of the congregation
- Must have at least two years of experience in church leadership in some capacity and some Bible school training

Resumes will be accepted until the position is filled. To apply, send resume to the attention of Mrs. Vesta Mullins, Chairperson of the Pastoral Search Committee, at the church's address. For more information call Rev. Carolyn Squires, Committee Co-Chairperson at 252-638-4726.
836 Green Street
P.O. Box 12881
New Bern, NC 28560
252-633-2388

PHILLIPS CHAPEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH – Winston-Salem, NC: Dr. Stephen Tyrone Thornton was called to Phillips Chapel Missionary Baptist Church in April, 2002. He was

called home to be with the Lord October 21, 2002. May God rest his soul! Phillips Chapel Missionary Baptist Church in Winston-Salem, NC, is seeking a senior pastor, spiritual leader, counselor and administrator. Interested persons should submit a letter of interest and a resume no later than January 15, 2003.

The successful candidate will have the following qualifications:

- Must be born-again, spirit filled, divinely called minister with strong family and community values
- Must possess the willingness to follow the By-Laws governing the church
- Must have knowledge of Baptist doctrines, church policies and procedures and be willing to follow such
- Must be a licensed, ordained Baptist minister
- Must have demonstrated the ability to perform the duties of a Senior Pastor
- Must have a minimum of a Bachelor's degree in Religion, Religious Studies, Theology, or Divinity from an accredited college, university, or divinity school
- Must be willing to work with all age groups with particular interest in the spiritual growth and development of our youth
- Must be able to develop and share a vision for the future growth and development of the church
- Must visit and commune with sick, shut-in and bereaved families

All applicants must provide the following information:

- Copy of college degree(s), certificates of license and ordination
- Proof of completion of ALL accredited theological training
- Name, address and telephone number of (4) personal and professional references with no more than (2) coming from other ministers

All materials should be forwarded to: Dr. Ernie Wade
Chairman, Pulpit Committee
Phillips Chapel Missionary Baptist Church

132 N. Glenn Avenue, Winston-Salem, NC 27105

MORRIS STREET BAPTIST

CHURCH – Charleston, SC: seeks to fill the position of Assistant Pastor for the Church. The applicant must be of irreproachable Christian character and possess leadership skills. Applicants must have a Bachelor of Arts degree and additional theological studies. Preference will be given to applicants with prior experience as a pastor or assistant pastor in a Baptist Church. The applicant will be required to demonstrate competency in teaching and preaching and to perform other functions related to the pastorate. Interested applicants should submit a letter of application with resume, references and credentials on or before January 15, 2003 to:
Morris Street Baptist Church

Attention: Search Committee
Irving Robinson, Vice-Chairman
25 Morris Street
Charleston, SC 29403

METROPOLITAN BAPTIST

CHURCH – Rocky Mount, NC: currently accepting resumes from ministers interested in serving as Pastor of the church. Metropolitan Baptist Church was founded in May 1965 and recently celebrated its 37th anniversary. The congregation has only had 3 pastors in its history, with the Pastor Emeritus serving for 25 years prior to retiring. The most recent pastor served for five years. The church has a membership of 500 members.

Metropolitan Baptist Church is located in Rocky Mount, North Carolina, which is located 45 miles east of Raleigh, North Carolina. Rocky Mount is considered a regional center for eastern North Carolina with a population of 58,000. The racial makeup is 57 percent African-American. The congregation is seeking an ordained missionary Baptist minister with 5 to 10 years experience as a senior pastor or associate pastor. The educational background of the candidate should include an undergraduate degree in theology or related area of study, however, a Masters of Divinity is preferred. Successful candidates should possess ability to work with all age groups and auxiliaries in the church, possess excellent communication skills, and possess the skills and ability to develop and strengthen the various internal ministries of the church and community outreach programs. Pastor's salaries and benefits are negotiable.

The closing date for submitting a resume is January 15, 2003.

Please send inquiries and resumes to: Pastor Search Committee, Metropolitan Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1952, Rocky Mount, NC 27801.

OLIVE BRANCH MISSIONARY

FIRST MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH PASTOR NEEDED

The Pastoral Search Committee of the First Missionary Baptist Church in Smithfield, N.C., is seeking a pastor. It is currently accepting resumes from interested Licensed Ordained Baptist Ministers.

QUALIFICATIONS:

1. Must be a Spiritual Baptist Minister
 - a. Ordained Baptist Minister with a strong orientation in Baptist beliefs and doctrines
 - b. A good role model of moral and ethical conduct
2. Must have pastoral experience in the Baptist church
3. Graduate of a university and divinity school preferred
4. Church, family and community oriented with the ability and willingness to teach Bible Study and Baptist Doctrine
5. Strong leadership with an outlook for the future growth and development of the church

The closing date for submitting a resume is January 31, 2003.

Please send inquiries and resumes to:

Dr. Phyllis Ethridge, Chairperson of Pastoral Search Committee
101 Lake Ridge Drive, Smithfield, NC 27577

BAPTIST CHURCH – Elizabeth City, NC: currently accepting applications for a Pastor. Interested applicants should provide a resume.

Send information to:

The Pulpit Committee
Brother Elonza Joyner, Chairperson
106 Graves Avenue
Elizabeth City, NC 27909
elonzajoyner@hotmail.com

Oakey Grove Missionary Baptist Church

– Clayton, NC: currently accepting applications for a Pastor with strong Missionary Baptist roots. We are affiliated with the Johnston District Missionary Baptist Association and the General Baptist State Convention. Interested applicants should provide the following:

1. A resume
2. Personal references

Send information to:

Oakey Grove Baptist Church
Pulpit Search Committee
Deacon Loomis Hodges, Chairperson
PO Box 2435
Smithfield, NC 27577

MOUNT CARMEL MISSIONARY

BAPTIST CHURCH – Elizabeth City, NC: currently accepting applications for a Pastor. The church is located in Hertford County. Interested applicants should provide the following:

1. A Resume
2. A copy of religious credentials: License/Ordination
3. Two personal references (no family references)

Send information to:

Mount Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church
Pastor Search Committee
ATTN: Deacon Eugene White
815 Swains Mill Road
Harrellsville, NC 27942

UNION GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH,
Warrenton, NC: currently accepting applications for a Pastor. Interested applicants should provide the following:

A Resume
Send information to:
Brother Alonza Jones, Board Chairman
Pastor Search Committee
Route 2, Box 128
Norlina, NC 27563

FIRST MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH Thomasville, NC: currently accepting applications for a Pastor with strong Missionary Baptist roots. We are affiliated with the Johnston District Missionary Baptist Association and the General Baptist State Convention, interested applicants should provide a resume. Send information to:
Tanya M. Autry, Chairperson
Pastor Search Committee
First Missionary Baptist Church
103 Church Street
Thomasville, NC 27360

EBENEZER BAPTIST CHURCH –
Neburgh, NY: currently accepting applications for Senior Pastor with strong Baptist roots. The Committee will provide each candidate with an application packet. Send request to:
Ebenezer Baptist Church
ATTN: Deacon Milton
Buxton/Confidential
PO Box 248
Newburgh, NY 12551-0248

SHADY GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH
– East Spencer, NC: currently accepting applications for a Pastor with strong Missionary Baptist roots. Interested applicants should provide the following:
1. A resume
2. at least four references: (2) business (2) personal
3. A copy of religious credentials: License/Ordination
Send information to:
Shady Grove Baptist Church
ATTN: Clarence A. Jones, Chairperson
PO Box 447
East Spencer, NC 28039

EASTERN STAR MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH – Tarboro, NC: seeking a pastor.
•He must be experienced
•Well seasoned
•He must live by the word of God
•Willing to teach Sunday school and bible study class
•Must be between the age of 25-55
Please submit resume to:
Pulpit Committee
Eastern Star Missionary Baptist Church
Post Office Box 1677
Tarboro, North Carolina 27886

SECOND CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH, 114 NELSON AVENUE, CHARLOTTE, NC 28216
Second Calvary Baptist Church is seeking a full time pastor to serve as spiritual leader, teacher and counselor for her con-

gregation. Finalist for this position must meet the following qualifications:
• Born-again licensed, ordained minister of the gospel of Jesus Christ.
• Knowledge of Baptist doctrine, practices and polity
• BA degree from an accredited institution of higher learning
• Senior Pastor for at least four to five years
• Good administrative and communication skills
• Ability to communicate with all age groups especially the youth
• Leadership experience in developing or administering youth programs and community service programs
• Willingness to affiliate at the national, state and local Baptist conventions and associations.
• Present location within five hours driving time from Charlotte
• Willingness to submit to a police and credit check
Resumes for persons meeting these qualifications should be sent to the Pulpit Search Committee at the address shown above. Resume deadline date is September 19, 2002

UNION GROVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH – Youngsville, NC: seeking a church musician.
For specific qualifications and duties, please contact Pastor J.C. Sherrod at 919-242-4024. Please send resume or inquiries to
Attn: Rev. J.C. Sherrod
Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church
P.O. Box 730
Youngsville, NC 27596

FOSTER MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH – Rocky Mount, NC: The Pulpit Search Committee of the Foster Memorial Missionary Baptist Church located in Rocky Mount, North Carolina, is accepting resume for the position of pastor. Applicants must possess the following qualifications:
• He must possess good moral and ethical conduct, living by Timothy 3:1-1, Titus 1:7-9 and abstain from study activities and inclinations as those cited in Romans 1:26-27.
• He must have a minimum of three (3) years experience as pastor with demonstrated ability in counseling and supervising all work for the church.
• He must live in the proximity of the church.
• He must be born again, filled with the Holy Spirit and called by God to preach God's word.
• He must possess a strong knowledge of the Missionary Baptist Doctrine, Church Policies, and Practices, and be willing to abide by them.
• He must have the skills required to work

with all age groups, with special emphasis on the youth.
• He must have the skills required for planning and implementing a vision for spiritual, physical and financial growth of the church. — He must be community oriented, and have strong family values.
• He must have a minimum of a high school diploma preferably a degree or courses in seminary training from an accredited college or university.
• He must be willing to attend Sunday School, Prayer Meetings, and teach Bible Study.
Please send resume to:
Foster Memorial Missionary Baptist Church, 1911 South Church Street
Post Office Box 6317
Rocky Mount, NC 2802-6317
C/O The Pulpit Committee
Trustee Hiawatha Knight

MOUNT CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH – Shelby, NC: currently accepting applications for a pastor with strong Missionary Baptist roots. The Church is affiliated with the Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Association, and the General Baptist State Convention of N.C. Interested applicants should provide the following:
Resume (including pastor experiences and educational qualifications)
A copy of religious credentials (license/ordination)
At least three personal references (no family)
Send information to:
Pastor Search Committee
Mount Calvary Baptist Church
P.O. Box 3181
Shelby, N.C. 28151-3181

HOPPERS CHAPEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH – Shelby, NC: now accepting resumes for the position of pastor. Potential candidates must be a born again Christian with strong Baptist roots. Hoppers Chapel is a member of the Ebenezer Baptist Association. All applicants must possess the following qualifications.
• Must be ordained and licensed
• Must have at least 1 yr. Pastoral experience
• Must provide credentials of theological training
• Must be an effective teacher and counselor
• Must possess extensive knowledge of Baptist Doctrine
• Provide a mission statement for the church
• Live in close proximity to the church
The applicant must have the ability to plan and implement a growth strategy for both the spiritual and physical growth of the church.
Send all resumes to:

PULPIT VACANCY NEW LIGHT MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH HALLSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA

NEW LIGHT MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH IS NOW ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR A PASTOR. OUR WORSHIP SERVICES ARE EACH SUNDAY OF THE MONTH.

QUALIFICATIONS:

Must be a licensed ordained Missionary Baptist Minister.

- Full of Holy Ghost. Led by the Spirit of God in all matters.
- Full of wisdom, knowledge and understand the office of Pastor and performs it according to the scriptures and the needs of the church.
- Must be Association minded.
- Prefer having experience as a Pastor.
- The husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behavior.
- One that rules his own house, having a good report.
- Knows the doctrine of a Missionary Baptist Church
- Must attend meetings of different auxiliaries in the church to become familiar with the organizations, whenever possible.
- Must visit the sick and shut-in when possible.
- Must attempt to become involved with the various programs that the church participates in outside the home church calendar.

Send resumes and inquiries to:

Deacon Kenneth Bracey
1025 Red Bug Rd.
Hallsboro, North Carolina 28442
910-646-4467

CLASSIFIEDS

Hoppers Chapel Missionary Baptist Church
C/O Pulpit Committee
415 West Graham St.
Shelby, N.C. 28150

CHURCH STAFF MUSICIANS:

BASIC REQUIREMENTS FOR SERVICE:

1. Born-again Christian, Spirit-filled, and divinely gifted in music ministry.
2. Willingness to spiritually align the music ministry with Pastoral vision.
3. Above to play the piano. Keyboard and/or organ; able to read music and versatile.
4. Able to prepare choirs for Sunday morning worship services and other services.
5. Able to teach, as, well as direct choirs, with humility and love.
6. Able to rehearse with all choirs on schedule, and available for all Sunday services.
7. Able to accompany Pastor and choirs to other services as required (or ensure qualified substitute is available).
8. Able to select appropriate hymns and songs for worship.

CHURCH MUSICIAN – Kittrell, NC: The Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church of Kittrell, North Carolina, is seeking a person to serve as church musician.

Qualifications:

- Christian-oriented, spiritually-filled, divinely gifted in music ministry
- Able and willing to accompany the pastor and choirs to other services
- Available for all Sunday services
- Willing and able to rehearse with all choirs on a regular schedule
- Willing to spiritually align the music ministry with the pastor's vision
- Willing and able to reach and direct choirs

- Able to select appropriate hymns and songs for worship

Salary is negotiable

All interested persons should send a cover letter with a resume *along with a recorded tape or CD of your work* to:
Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church

ATTN: Musician Committee
P.O. Box 175
Kittrell, North Carolina 27544
All completed application packages must be postmarked by January 31, 2003.
No application packages will be accepted or considered after January 31, 2003.

MINISTER OF MUSIC WANTED SPRINGFIELD BAPTIST CHURCH – Stanley, NC:

- A Spirit-filled leader – skilled in the Word
 - Child of God
 - Faithful and committed to God's program
 - The gift to play by ear with or without the accompaniment of other musicians
 - Has the ability to read and teach music
 - Plays versatile music – which includes hymns, spirituals, contemporary gospel and praise songs
 - Available to accompany the pastor and choirs to other churches when and as needed
 - Available for all rehearsals and Sunday Worship service
- Please contact: Melissa Fanning – (H) 704-563-3230 or Pastor Theodore Armstrong – Church 704-263-4426

MINISTER OF MUSIC NEEDED – Wake Forest, NC: congregation seeks musician. 1) The duties include working directly with the Pastor in order to assist and cooperate with him in Christian Worship, 2.) Playing during Sunday morning worship service, 3.) Rehearsing with various choirs one night per week, 4.) And accompanying the Pastor on engagements to other churches. Please forward a cover letter and resume to: Evans Grove Missionary Baptist Church 12700 Creedmoor Road Highway 50 Wake Forest, NC 27587 (919) 870-8874

**MINISTER OF MUSIC VACANCY:
THE SPRING GREEN MISSIONARY
BAPTIST CHURCH** – Warrenton, NC: seeks a Minister of Music to provide musical direction and accompaniment for 4 choirs in the church. This person will work closely with the Pastor to provide

spiritual leadership in the ministry of Jesus Christ through music, i.e. hymns, spiritual songs, and praise and worship music that glorifies God.

We are accepting resumes from candidates with the appropriate qualifications. (Specific qualifications listed in beginning of staff musician section.)

For additional information please send inquiry or resume to:
Spring Green Missionary Baptist Church
PO Box 924, Warrenton, NC 2589
Rev. Dennis G. Lindsay, Pastor

MUSICIAN NEEDED – Oakboro, NC: Must be a Christian available to serve every Sunday. Prepare Choirs and Praise Team for Sunday morning worship. Rehearse with choirs on scheduled times. Be available to accompany Pastor and choirs to church functions. Direct congregation in congregational hymns. Must be able to play by ear as well as read music
To apply call:
(704) 532-6813 or E-mail to
GalileeNC@aol.com
Galilee Missionary Baptist Church
PO. Box 644, Oakboro, NC 28129

**CHURCH MUSICIAN VACANCY:
FIRST MISSIONARY BAPTIST
CHURCH** – Selma, NC: seeks musician for youth choir. Must be a Christian with good character.

Requirements:

- Play the organ and piano
- Able to play sacred and gospel music
- Read music and have the ability to play by ear

Send resume to:
Reverend S. Manfred Isom, Pastor
415 Star Ruby Drive
Knightsdale, NC 27545

**MINISTER OF MUSIC NEEDED:
THE PENN AVENUE MOUNT OLIVE
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*Reads music and is versatile in playing by ear
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PO Box 214
Lewiston-Woodville, NC 27849
Attention: William W. Peele, Jr.

**MINISTER OF MUSIC WANTED:
THE PENN AVENUE MISSIONARY
BAPTIST CHURCH** – Oxford, NC: currently seeking a Minister of Music.

QUALIFICATIONS:

(Specific qualifications listed in beginning of staff musician section.)

*Will be responsible with the pastor's approval in hiring other musicians if deemed necessary.

Salary: Negotiable

Sunday worship services. Service begins each Sunday at 11 a.m. with the exception of 5th Sunday services which begin at 10 a.m. Please send resume to the above listed address or inquiries may be made by calling one of the above listed numbers.

CHURCH MUSICIAN NEEDED – Warren County, NC: Knowledge of music and the ability to play by ear is appreciated. Presently, morning worship service is held every fourth (4th) Sunday, but we are considering an additional Sunday for services. Must be able to play for youth choir and adult choir. Church is located in Warren County, North Carolina. For further information, please call:
(252) 257-0221

**CHURCH MUSICIAN: THE CEDAR
GROVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST
CHURCH** – Gibson, NC: seeking a person to serve as Church Musician. Qualifications: (Specific qualifications listed in beginning of staff musician section.) Salary negotiable. Please send resume to Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Church at this address.
Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Church
14600 Railroad St.
Gibson, NC 28343

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2. A copy of religious credentials: License/Ordination
3. Three personal references (no family references)

Send information to:
St. James Missionary Baptist Church
The Pulpit Committee
ATTN: Deacon John D. Ellis
Post Office Box 2205
Henderson, North Carolina 27536

accepting resumes for a Church Musician. Qualifications: (Specific qualifications listed in beginning of staff musician section.) Salary negotiable. 715 West Willis Ave. High Point, NC 27260

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A person in this position must possess formal training and expertise in the area of music, has excellent organizational skills, and the ability to work cooperatively with a diverse group of people.

EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

Bachelor of Science Degree in Music with concentration in choral, church, or music education, a minimum of two years of work experience as Minister of Music or Minister of Music Assistant in a similar Church environment.

An Instrument skill proficiency test is required on piano and organ. Must possess the ability to organize and prioritize tasks, events, and activities; ability to

work under pressure of deadlines; make decisions; and establish effective working relationships with the Pastor, choir members, church members, supervisor, and church community.

•Resumes will be accepted until August 31, 2002. Start date for this position will be December 31, 2002.

•If the Holy Spirit excites you about this opportunity to serve God, and you meet the qualifications and expectations described above, we would love to hear from you. Please e-mail your resume to or mail it to:

The Greater Piney Grove Baptist Church
1879 Glenwood Avenue, S.E.
Atlanta, GA 30313
Attn: Personnel Committee

JEFFRIES CROSS BAPTIST CHURCH

– Burlington, NC: Send cover letter and resume to Jeffries Cross Baptist Church, 2015 Jeffries Cross Rd., Burlington, NC 27217. Phone: 336-226-9626. We are currently seeking a musician who will work directly with the pastor to provide spiritual leadership in the music ministry. Qualifications: 1. A Christian with piano, keyboard, organ ability; read music, play chords, teach harmony, direct choirs, conduct two rehearsals per month with four choirs, accompany pastor on engagements, accommodate traditional and contemporary worship styles.

Richard H. Moore
State Treasurer

Dr. Archie Logan, Jr.
Executive Secretary-Treasurer
General Baptist State Convention

Dear Pastor,

The General Baptist State Convention joins Richard H. Moore, State Treasurer, in encouraging your Association and church to identify your unclaimed property. As your State Treasurer and Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the General Baptist State Convention, the two of us serve important roles in North Carolina. It is for this reason we want to make you aware of a program that may benefit both your church and its members.

The North Carolina Department of State Treasurer is responsible for administering the "Escheat and Unclaimed Property Program". The purpose of this program is simple; when a company or financial institution is holding money that belongs to a North Carolina resident and that individual cannot be located, the company is required by law to turn the money over to the Department of State Treasurer, where it is held until the rightful owner claims it. This "unclaimed cash" is often the result of forgotten utility deposits, bank accounts, stocks that were purchased, and checks that have not been cashed. Currently, the North Carolina Department of State Treasurer is holding over \$350 million in unclaimed cash that belongs to 1.4 million people and organizations.

It is important that as much of this money as possible gets returned to the rightful owners. In order to do that, we need your help. We hope that you can assist us in getting the word out about this program by letting your church members know it is there and making them aware of how they can check to see if they may be owed money.

The easiest way to find out if your name is on the Unclaimed Property list is to log onto the North Carolina Department of State Treasurer website at www.treasurer.state.nc.us. You then click on the "Unclaimed Property Program" link to get to a page where you can type in your name. We suggest not only checking your name with the proper spelling, but try variations on the spelling of your name, as well. Sometimes the reason money does not get to an individual is because the company sending it has the wrong address or incorrect spelling of the person's name.

It is also important to know that claiming your money through the Department of State Treasurer is completely free. You should be aware that there are services that DO charge a fee to locate any unclaimed funds that may be owed to you. It is not necessary to use these services or to pay a fee to have your money returned. You can claim your money directly from the Department of State Treasurer at no cost.

We believe sharing information regarding the "Unclaimed Property Program" with your church members is a valuable service. Not only will this information help your members to claim any money that they may be owed, but it will also be helpful to your communities as the word travels to relatives, friends and neighbors of your members. We also suggest you check the name of your church to see if money is owed to it. There are thousands of businesses and organizations that have unclaimed cash, and your church may be one of them.

We appreciate your assistance in helping us to make the citizens of North Carolina aware of this program, and look forward to working with you to return as much money as possible to your church members. The General Baptist Foundation is also available to assist you in locating your money at no cost; simply call the Foundation toll free at 1-866-858-7847 or log on to the General Baptist State Convention's website at www.GBSC.org, then click on the [N.C. Department of State Treasurer](#) link to access the "Unclaimed Property Program".

Sincerely,

Richard H. Moore
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48. Jesus! Jesus! Jesus! He Is Somebody's Preacher

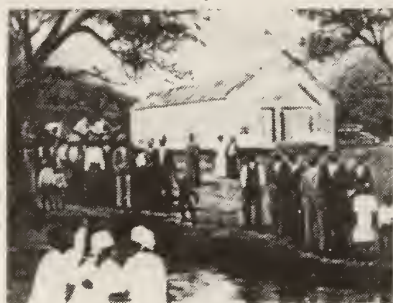
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52. When Stress Controls You Jesus Consoles You
53. Black Men And Women, Young And Old, Changing A Generation
54. I Am Black But I Am Somebody
55. Staying Afloat In A Sinking Boat
56. He That Has A Friend Must Show Himself Friendly
57. Victory Is Mine
58. Occupy Till I Come
59. A Man On A Mission / The Borrowed Ax
60. Busy In God's Business
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62. He's Alive And I Am Glad About It
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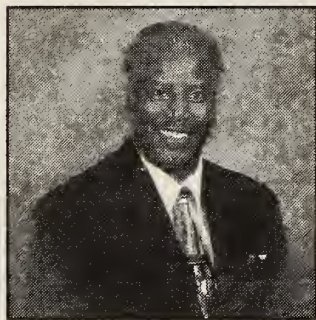
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Reverend Olu Q. Menjay

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Mon July 14 Depart West Coast via Singapore Airlines
Tue July 15 Arrive in Hong Kong
You are met in the Arrival Hall by your Travelink representative and transferred by deluxe motor coach to your hotel for 6 nights. Balance of day at leisure to rest and explore on your own.
Wed July 16 Hong Kong
Buffet breakfast at hotel. This morning depart the hotel by air-conditioned coach via the bustling crowded city of Kowloon to traverse the world-renowned Victoria Harbor via the Crossharbor Tunnel. We then drive by Wanchai to reach Victoria Peak for a breathtaking 360-degree view of the bustling harbor, Hong Kong Island and Kowloon as far as the eye can see. From Victoria Peak the tour continues passing by the scenic resort areas of Repulse Bay and Deep Water Bay. A stop is made at Stanley Market which is known for its great discounts on all kinds of merchandise from name brand clothing to souvenirs. We then continue to Aberdeen Village to see the many floating sampan fishing villages. Return to our hotel with time for lunch on your own before transfer to the conference site. 6:00PM 14th Baptist Youth World Conference opens.
Thu July 17 Attend 14th Baptist Youth World Conference
Fri July 18 Conference
Sat July 19 Conference
Sun July 20 Conference closes at 1:00PM
Balance day of leisure.
Mon Jul 21 Depart Hong Kong
Buffet breakfast at hotel. Full day at leisure for shopping and personal activities. Hotel check-out by 12:00PM. 6:30PM transfer by private coach to airport for return flights.

BAPTIST INFORMER

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BAPTIST INFORMER

Volume 126, No. 2

Publication of the General Baptist State Convention of N.C., Inc.
Voice of 500,000 North Carolina Baptists

February 2003

Our General Baptist Convention History 2003 Our 136th Year 1867

By Archie D. Logan, Jr.
Executive Secretary-Treasurer

2003 is a special year in the life and history of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc. This is our 136th Year. God has continued to



Dr. Archie
Logan, Jr.

open doors of opportunity and blessing for us all. We look forward with anticipation to His continued abundant blessings in 2003. Our 136th Year is a milestone in this Christian journey of mission and ministry.

We must never forget or neglect our past history. It is important to our mission/purpose and continued existence that we sing the *Lord's Song*. We lift up praises to God as we reflect back on our glorious past history.

“a number of delegates from the various colored Baptist churches, assembled this day at 4 o'clock in the meeting houses of the 1st African Baptist church in Goldsboro. “On motion, Elder L. W. Boon was called to preside over the meeting as temporary President.” Since 4 o'clock PM on that historic day we have lifted the banner of *Missions, Kingdom Building and Evangelism*.

We rejoice in the growth of our Convention since 1867, God is good and has opened the windows of heaven on our behalf. When the GBSC, Inc. was organized, there were only twenty documented regularly organized Baptist churches of African-American people in North Carolina. Most of those congregations were rural, poor, illiterate and unstructured. There were few licensed and ordained ministers. Former slaves, who preached in bush harbors, pastored many of our first organized churches. These first pastors served our churches as missionaries without pay or the promise or expectation of pay. They preached the “Gospel” freely and faithfully in every

Convention patriarchs must always be remembered and lifted up. African-American History Month is an appropriate time for us to remember and *brush up against their spirits*.

We have a rich and exciting religious heritage. The first organized session of our Convention was held in Goldsboro, North Carolina, October 17-21, 1867. Elder Lemuel Washington Boon served as the first elected officer, Temporary President, of the Body. Later in the evening, October 17, 1867, the first permanent officers were elected for our Convention. They were: Elder William Warwick, President; First Vice President, Elder M. Liggon; Second Vice President, Brother A. Scott; Third Vice President, Elder William Dewy; Recording Secretary, Elder Lemuel Washington Boon; Corresponding Secretary, Elder Edward Eagles; and Treasurer Elder C. C. Best. These pioneers and other faithful people of color began what is known as the “Splendid Enterprise”.

The second session of our Convention was held at the First Baptist Church, Raleigh, August 12-16, 1868, Elder William Warwick, President. The third session was held at the First Baptist Church, Wilmington, August 11-17, 1869, Elder A. B. Williams, President. The fourth session of the Convention met at the Mount Zion Baptist Church, Salisbury, August 17-21, 1870, Elder A. B. Williams, President; and, the fifth session was held in Raleigh, at the First Baptist Church, Elder A. B. Williams, President.

The first five sessions, (1867-1871), of the Convention were filled with exciting events. These were our birthing years! The Convention used its energy to develop a missionary program for the newly organized body: We are MISSIONARY BAPTIST. In the 1867 original

Preamble and Constitution of our Convention. Our founders were concerned about: (1) Promoting the Gospel in an organized way; (2) Improving the condition of the race; and (3) Establishing the work across the State. As we enter our 136th Year we continue to promote the “Gospel” and the Saving Grace of Jesus Christ. We are concerned about the plight of deeply hurting and troubled people. We seek to make a difference in the lives of those we reach and touch.

Between 1889 and 1947 the African-American Missionary Baptist Conventions in the State made attempts to merge. Finally, on December 16, 1946, the various bodies approved the “Certificate of Incorporation for the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc.” The document was formally chartered by the State of North Carolina, February 5, 1947. Finally, Baptists were united in a common Gospel mission and purpose. In 2003 we reaffirm and renew the mission and purpose of the GBSC, Inc.

The Convention has grown from its humble beginning to more than 650,000 members with 62 Associations and over 2,000 churches. The GBSC has four Auxiliaries: The Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention of North Carolina; the Congress of Christian Education; the Ushers' Convention, and the Laymen's League. The GBSC supports major Objectives: State Missions & J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly; Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Convention; Shaw University; Shaw University Divinity School; and Central Children's Home.

The Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention was organized in 1884. The Baptist State Sunday School Convention was organized

See HISTORY, Page 2

Psalms 24

The earth is the LORD's, and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell therein. For He has founded it upon the seas, And established it upon the waters. Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD? Or who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, Who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, Nor sworn deceitfully. He shall receive blessing from the LORD, And righteousness from the God of his salvation. This is Jacob, the generation of those who seek Him, Who seek Your face. Life up your heads, O you gates! And be lifted up, you everlasting doors! And the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, The LORD mighty in battle. Lift up your heads, O you gates! Lift up, you everlasting doors! And the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, He is the King of glory. (NKJV)

It is recorded in the *Proceedings of the First Annual Session of the General Association of the Colored Baptists of North Carolina*, that on October 17, 1867,

part of the State. They were given love offerings, pennies and nickels; hams, chickens, garden vegetables; and prayers for their services. These early

1867-2003 • 1867-2003

OUR 136TH YEAR

HISTORY, Cont'd From Page 1

at the First Baptist Church, Raleigh, North Carolina, in May 1873. In 1900, the Baptist Young People's Union was organized. The publication organ of the General Baptist State Convention is "The Baptist Informer". It had its origin in 1877, at Shaw University. In 1947, the Laymen's League was formed. Ushers of North Carolina met at the Baptist Headquarters, Raleigh, North Carolina with a committee from the General Baptist State Convention to organize a State Ushers Convention, May 31, 1949. In 1986 the General Baptist Foundation, Inc., was chartered. Two years later, on October 26, 1988, The Minister's Council was created. The Minister's Council provides leadership seminars and is a body that focuses on the needs of the clergy. In 1991 the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc. decided to focus on student ministry in North Carolina at the eleven historically African-American college and university campuses and organized the General Baptist Student Union.

The GBSC has been a leader in African-American Faith-based organizations in areas of social and community concerns. Recent *ministries* have lifted the GBSC to new heights: Our Health and Human Services Ministry has been active

since 1980. The planting of Hispanic General Baptist Churches; Prison Ministry; Domestic Violence Prevention; Adoption & Foster Care Ministry; Evangelism; Christian Education; Hurricane Disaster Relief, and Affordable Housing Ministry highlight our work today.

The Convention built the first two homes in Princeville, North Carolina following Hurricane Floyd, on land they purchased. A subdivision Phoenix Village, which has 21 lots is being developed on the site. Phase I, (five homes) has been completed. On May 31, 2002, we broke ground in Navassa, North Carolina to build 25 homes for flood survivors in Brunswick, Pender and New Hanover Counties. We continue to lead African-American faith-based organizations in responding to the crisis.

On May 8, 2002 the GBSC, Inc., and the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina had a historical meeting. The groups met together for the first time since 1981. The two groups have renewed their 135-year cooperative partnership and fellowship. On October 17, 1867, the Baptist State Convention sent messengers and money to help establish our Convention at First African Baptist in Goldsboro. We believe that the racial-divide must be bridged and unified. We

are ONE in CHRIST. Levels of social, economic and political stratification must be eliminated. The masses must be empowered with voices that are heard and respected.

On December 6, 2002, the Convention made history when it received the Honorable William Jefferson Clinton, 42nd President of the United States as its 135th Year and 4th Annual Housing Banquet Speaker. Our legacy continued in 2003 when the Honorable Alphonso Jackson, United States Deputy Secretary,

Department of Housing and Urban Development, delivered the Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Banquet Address, January 10th. Secretary Jackson is one of the highest-ranking officials of the government to address the GBSC during its proud history. The future is bright under the leadership of newly elected GBSC President, Dr. Charles Bullock, Pastor, Martin Street Baptist Church, Raleigh, North Carolina. Continue in prayer for the "work".

I will remember the works of the LORD;
Surely I will remember Your wonders of old.
I will also meditate on all Your work,
And talk of Your deeds.
Your way, O God, is in the sanctuary;
Why is so great a God as our God?
You are the God who does wonders;
You have declared Your strength among the peoples.
You have with Your arm redeemed Your people, ...
(Psalm 77:11-15, NKJV)

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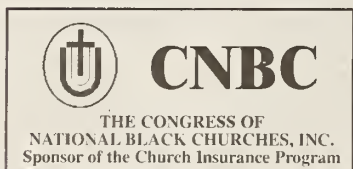
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Anchors for the Present Age

By Dr. Charles T. Bullock

"I therefore the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the

vocation where-with ye are called"

(Ephesians 4:1).

As we endeavor to walk worthy of the vocation wherewith we are called, we need that which is beyond us within us. In times like these, we need anchors that will hold as

we are at the brink of war and the economy is in a state of decline. There are those who must deal with bodily diseases and the high cost of health and medical care and the list goes on. Our convention is called upon to address some of the issues of this present age. We are confronted with the task of having to do so much with so little. Yet, we are mindful of the words of the hymn *"In times like these you need a savior, In times like these you need an anchor; Be very sure, be very sure your anchor holds and grips the solid Rock! This Rock is Jesus, Yes, He is the one; this rock is Jesus, The only One! Be very sure, be very sure Your anchor holds and grips the solid Rock!"*

The Apostle Paul faced some difficult days in carrying out the mandates given him as a missionary. As we read Acts 27, we find Paul (a prisoner at this time) is being sent to Rome by ship and while sailing the sea a storm arose; yet they came near land and Paul suggested they cast four anchors and wished for the day. I interpret this as Paul suggesting four

anchors that can study our lives in this present age. For in a world where the outward pressures grow every day there are inward braces that will hold.

The first anchor I suggest is the anchor of Courage. If our faith is to be kept alive we will have to act upon it in face of fears and hesitations. Most of the things we fear in life do not happen, and if they do and we meet them in the courage of faith, they have something to give us, which brings gain out of loss. Courage is God's gift. It will come as we take life from God, whatever it brings, and meet it with him.

The second anchor is the anchor of Faith in God. Faith can be defined as confident trust. Faith in the Christian sense is based on evidence, and it is faith that goes beyond reason but not against it. Faith involves believing in unseen realities. Those who can see with the eye of faith have a grasp of the reality of God (what he can and will do in a given situation) and are simply wishful thinkers.

The third anchor is the anchor of Faith in the Future. The future is unknown to us but is completely known

to God. He knows the way that we will take. We know that our ultimate destiny is to be with Christ forever and we know that our future is secure in His hand. Paul reminded his frightened fellow passengers of that ship bound for Rome that he believed "that it shall be as God had told me." The Christian assumes that God is faithful and that with God the "best is yet to be."

The fourth anchor is the anchor of Patience. Paul said that "they let out four anchors and prayed for the day to come." We often must do what we can and then wait patiently for the day to come, for the sun to rise. A large part of faith is patience. No one gets very far in the Christian Life if he/she always looks for quick returns. The answers to prayers take time to appear, but "in due time ye shall reap if ye faint not."

With our anchors in place; we are prepared and equipped to serve the present age. In the words of Charles Wesley, "We have a charge to keep and a God to glorify," and for that reason we go forth in Jesus' name to do the Master's will. ■



Dr. Charles Bullock

we "Serve The Present Age."

Anchors That will Hold In The Present Age

The words of Ruth Caye Jones, recorded in the hymn *"In Times Like These"*, I think are very fitting for these times in which we live. It appears that

Vice President At Large Proposed "60 & 3" Commission To General Board on 12/19/02

By Dr. John H. Grant
Vice President At Large

According to an itemized list submitted by Executive Secretary-Treasurer Dr. Archie T. Logan, about half of GBSC churches (more than 800) contributed less than \$200 to the Convention in support of our work. What's even more disturbing is that of these 800 churches, a total of 662 churches contributed \$0 to the Convention.



Dr. J.H. Grant

This, in my humble opinion, may be an indication that these churches and pastors do not see the Convention as addressing or meeting their needs.

As one response to this problem, I am proposing the "60 & 3 Commission". The purpose of the Commission is to conduct listening sessions in up to 60 GBSC Associations in three years to ascertain the reason(s) these churches and pastors are contributing little to no financial support to the Convention. The emphasis will be on listening to the opinions and needs of pastors and churches, not on imposing the opinions and needs of Convention leaders/staff on pastors and churches. Particulars for these listening sessions include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following:

Listening sessions will be scheduled and conducted only at the request of the Association's Moderator.

The goal is for Vice President At Large Grant, assisted by the inviting moderator, to conduct an average of one session per month. In addition, a GBSC staff member, assisted by the inviting moderator, will also conduct an

average of one session per month.

The intent is to visit on average up to two Associations per month over 36 months and hear the concerns of pastors and churches. Each listening session will be scheduled for approximately two hours, with more or less time allotted as deemed necessary and expedient.

A simple one-page questionnaire, already approved conceptually by the General Board and Convention, will be used as a guide to facilitate dialogue at each session. A secretary will be appointed at each session for recording purposes. The Convention will bear the expenses for conducting the sessions, which are

projected to be a not-to-exceed total of \$14,400.00 over three years.

Expenses (travel and hotel) would be up to \$200 per session @ two sessions per month, or up to \$4,800.00 each year, depending on distance traveled. Costs may be offset according to each association's willingness to contribute up to \$200.00 for the expenses of its session.

Vice President At Large Grant will publish monthly updates in the Baptist Informer, with a compilation of findings published when all listening sessions are complete. ■

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From the Desk of the New Second Vice-President

By Reverend Nilous M. Avery, II – M. Div.

"Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the



Rev. Nilous Avery, II

will of our God and Father, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen." (Galatians 1:3-5, NIV)

The New Year provides opportunities for new commitments, new goals, new objectives, new lessons, new experiences, and new challenges. The Christian community must be equipped and empowered to face these opportunities with renewed energy, enthusiasm, excitement, and enlightenment.

I am reminded of a song my junior high school chorus sang years ago:

No man is an island; no man stands alone.
Each man's joy is joy to me; each man's strength is my own.
We need one another, so I will defend
Each man as my brother, each man as my friend.

Likewise, we cannot be Christians

alone. We are called to be Christians toward someone else. It has been said that the Christian life involves a vertical line from the believer to God, and a horizontal line from the believer to others. The writer in 2 Corinthians 9:8 penned it this way: "God can bless you with everything you need, and you will always have more than enough to do all kinds of good things for others." (CEV)

Our profession must be matched by our performance. Our up reach must be partnered with our outreach. Our claim of inner grace must be interlocked with our outward show of goodness toward others. The opportunities for meaningful service through foreign missions are closer than we think.

Mwevi Ishmael Mwilima, from Tanzania, Africa, represents one of these opportunities. In 1998, he accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as his personal Savior through the influence and teaching of some Presbyterian missionaries who were in his hometown.

Mwevi was raised in a Muslim-dominated culture and was the only individual in his town to accept Christ during the four months that the missionaries were there. He eventually came to the United States where he completed two years of study at Fruitland Bible Institute in Western North Carolina.

He is presently attending North Greenville College in Tigerville, SC. Mwevi's ultimate goal is to one day return home to preach the Gospel of Jesus

Christ in a culture that is 98% Muslim and also ravaged by the AIDS epidemic. However, he needs financial assistance to continue his education and keep his student visa.

Through the inspiration and influence of Reverend Charles Walton, the Olive Grove Missionary Baptist Church in Warren County, and the United Shiloh Missionary Baptist Association, several have responded to this opportunity for foreign missions from a new perspective. I am convinced that the General Baptist family of individuals, churches, associations, and auxiliaries will step up and meet this challenge.

If you have any questions, or would like to send a contribution, please direct all inquiries to the following:

Olive Grove Missionary Baptist

Church

C/o Mwevi I. Mwilima contribution
P. O. Box 809
Littleton, NC 27850

Mrs. Shirley Eskew, Assistant
Director of Financial Aid
North Greenville College
P. O. Box 1892

Tigerville, SC 29788
(864) 977-7057; Toll free 1-800-468-6642

You may also write to Mwevi and send him words of encouragement at: P. O. Box 1073, Tigerville, SC 29688.
"May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all." (2 Corinthians 13:14, NIV)

From the First Vice-President

Dr. Howard W. Parker, Jr.
State Mission

As the Bullock Administration continues to set sail into the work of Kingdom Building through the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, I



Dr. Howard Parker, Jr.

want to report to you on news and information that was submitted to me by the Rev. Michael R. Smith, Sr., who serves the GBSC as Chairman of our Institutional & Specialized Ministries. This body may be better remem-

bered as our former Prison Ministries body.

During the year of 2003, the Institutional & Specialized Ministries will be working toward achieving some very important goals in fulfilling our mission of reaching, reconciling and restoring lives impacted by crime and incarceration. The ISM leadership consists of our coordinators who play a key role in our statewide outreach to all GBSC churches. With the North Carolina Department of Corrections seeking to replace state fund-

ed full-time chaplains, I believe it is a challenge and opportunity for GBSC churches to step forward with kingdom solutions. Therefore, Rev. Michael R. Smith, Sr., submits the following ISM goals in 2003:

- To continue to provide training to all interested GBSC churches in the areas of At-Risk Youth Ministry, (2) In-Prison Ministry, (3) Pre-Release & Aftercare Ministry, (4) Victims of Crime Ministry.
- To educate the GBSC to realize the devastating effects on our communities caused by the over 65% of African Americans incarcerated in the N.C. Department of Corrections.
- To establish a church plant at the Federal Correctional Center in Butner, NC in order to disciple committed Christian men in prison to reach out to other prisoners in effective ways.
- To pursue faith based initiatives that will possibly provide grant monies that can be used in the area of aftercare.
- To encourage and exhort all GBSC churches to have special programs/services that can train or educate the congregation in better responding to the crime and incarceration crisis.
- To convene the 3rd Annual Crime &

See PARKER, Page 7

A Fresh Look at the New Testament Deacon

By John H. Walker, D. Min.

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There is a critical problem concerning the Deacons and the local church, state and national conventions. The Deacons are assuming leadership roles without being equipped for the task of leadership. The relationship between the pastor and deacon is widening because there is a misunderstanding concerning the mission of the church, pastoral leadership, and the role of the deacons.

This book is a must tool to bridge the gap between the role of Pastor and Deacons in order to provide EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP.

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Unprejudiced Love

By Executive Secretary-Treasurer Brodie

February usually we observe as the month to emphasize love and the historical contributions of African Americans. For us as missionaries true love (Agape)

begins with God. God loves and provides for all of us His created human beings, be they righteous or unrighteous. There are many examples of God's love manifested for people. One scenario (1 King 17:8:16) is that of the widow at

Zarephath. She has a handful of flour in a bin and a little oil in a jar on which she and her son are to survive. However, comes along God's prophet Elijah, who also needs food. He asks her for water and bread, and she informs him of her situation. He tells her, to do what she is about to do, but to prepare him a small cake first. What a challenge – to give of

her last food first to one whom she does not know and to take away from food that she and her son may need. Yet she obeys and gives him to eat. This act of obedience and kindness God rewards overwhelmingly. For according to His word as spoken by Elijah, the flour bin and the oil jar do not give out until the day He sends rain. God shares with a woman who may or may not have believed in Him so that she provides for His prophet, Elijah, herself and son.

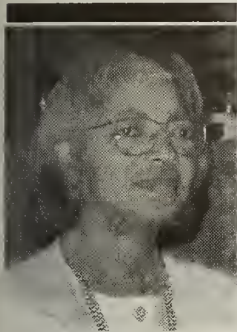
Such a lesson reminds us of God's providing for us compassionately so that we can bless another graciously. God loves all people as He sent Elijah to the home of a woman who lived in baal country and rewarded her for ministering unto His prophet in that she was obedient unto His voice through His prophet. This time (February) should remind us of our call in His love to share the "Bread of God" with whomever He sends our way and to share whatever He asks us share with another, regardless of how little or much we have. It is in giving that we show the love of God and receive. Let us perpetuate this kind of obedient love not only in February but in every situation God sends our way. What of the lives and sacrifices

have African American brothers and sisters given in obedient love to their Creator.

"Praise God from whom all blessings flow,

Praise Him all creatures here below.
Praise Him above ye heavenly by host,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost."

—Thomas Ken



Dr. Priscilla Brodie



Dr. Julius McDonald

1. Budget: The 2002-2003 Budget is in the amount of \$806,055.00: Foreign Missions, \$80,200.00; State Missions, \$565,855.00; Shaw University, \$49,500.00;

Shaw Divinity School, \$33,500.00; Central Children Home, \$36,500.00; and Baptist Assembly, \$40,500.00. Checks and money orders should be made payable to the Woman's Baptist State Convention and sent to Woman's Baptist State Convention, P. O. Box

1818, Raleigh, NC 27602. PLEASE BE REMINDED THAT THE WOMAN'S CONVENTION'S FUNDS ARE NOT A PART OF THE UNIFIED PLAN.

2. Self-Denial Envelopes: Please write to the Woman's Convention, P. O. Box 1818, Raleigh, NC 27602, in order to receive these.

3. Housing Reservation Forms for the 119th Annual Session of the Woman's Convention in Winston-Salem, July 2003, are now available from this office.

4. State-wide Leader's Workshop: Pre-registration for the state-wide Leaders' Workshop, April 5, 2003, is \$5.00; on-site, \$6.00. If you have not received pre-registration registration forms, please contact the office immediately. Pre-registration deadline is March 15, 2003.

We give thanks to God and the father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, . . .
Colossians 1:3.

GBSC Is Available To Work With Churches

By Dr. Archie D. Logan Jr.

Greetings! The General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina is available to work with your church during the time you do not have a Pastor. We will work with the Deacons and other officers to provide guidance as you search for a new pastor to lead your church.

Some of the things we offer:

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 - ✓ How To Call A Pastor?
 - ✓ How Much Should We Pay Our Pastor?
 - ✓ Church Administration
 - ✓ How To Plan A Church Budget
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 - ✓ Evangelism Classes
 - ✓ Special Training For Deacons/Trustees
 - ✓ Christian Education Planning
 - ✓ Church Development
 - ✓ Please call if you are interested in any of these services!
 - ✓ 1-800-639-GBSC (4272)

By Lucille Griswold Paige

The 50th Annual One-Day Session of the Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention of North Carolina was held at the Raleigh Civic Center Saturday, January 11, 2003 at 9 a.m. The theme was "Reaching the Masses: Transforming the Family through Values/Ethics". Mrs. Bronnie Daniels presided.

The opening hymn was "What a Fellowship". Mrs. Cleo Bowden was in charge of praise/worship. The service began by singing "Lift Him Up". The scriptures Deuteronomy 6:4-6 and Matthew 22:37-40 were read by Mrs. Evelyn Snead. The prayer was by Mrs. Shirley Gore. The theme "Transforming the Family through Values/Ethics" was by Mrs. Hilda Smith. The worship closed by singing "I Am Thine Oh Lord".

In her presidential moments, Mrs. Julius McDonald spoke of One Solitary Life and What If?

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Litany was led by Mrs. Audrey Battle. The singspiration was "Get all excited, tell everybody that Jesus Christ is King. Jesus Christ is still King of Kings, King of Kings!"

The minutes of the Executive Board were read by Mrs. Darlene Esters.

Greetings were from Dr. Charles Bullock, Dean Robinson representing Shaw University/Shaw Divinity School and Mrs. Eva Geer representing Health and Human Ministry for WBH&FMC.

Dr. Bullock asked a question, "Have you ever seen a turtle on a fence?" A turtle cannot climb a fence. If you have seen one there, someone had to put him there. We are here because someone put us here and we must carry our corner.

The Bible Study was taught by Dr. David Forbes. The scriptures were Matthew 22:37-40 and John 14:15. "Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind." "This is the first and great commandment, and the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." "On these two commandments Hang all the law and the prophets." "If ye love me, keep my commandments." If He is your God, you are to love Him. Don't rush by the name of Jesus. There is power in the name of Jesus. He is Savior, Master, Lord and King. Jesus is the sweetest name on earth. He speaks to our circumstance. He will not accept a partial heart. God loves us in spite of our faults.

Rev. Dazake Kearney, in her presentation of Drug Prevention and Care, gave these scriptures to read: Ephesians 6:10, Luke 14:18, Matthew 28:18. The devil is out to kill, steal and destroy. Read Romans 12.

Mrs. Audrey Battle sang a solo "Happy In My Home Over-There". Ministers and visitors, all Lydia Circles, Unions, Auxiliaries and District

See CONVENTION, Page 6

PARKER, Cont'd From Page 5

Incarceration Conference on August 1-2, 2003.

To advocate that the crime and incarceration crisis be elevated from a committee status to a major mission outreach by the GBSC.

Facts About Prisons And Prisoners: Who is in our Prisons and Jails?

93% of prison inmates are male, 7% female.

46% of prison inmates in 1999 were Black and 16% were Hispanic.

68% of state prison inmates in 1997 had not completed high school.

33% of jail inmates in 1991 were unemployed prior to entering jail.

32% of jail inmates in 1991 who had been free for at least one year prior to their arrest had annual incomes of under \$5,000.

70% of those sentenced to state prisons in 1998 were convicted of non-violent crimes, including 31% for drug offenses, and 26% for property offenses.

60% of jail inmates in 1996 reported they were under the influence of alcohol or drugs at the time they committed their offense.

1 in 4 jail inmates in 1996 was in jail for a drug offense, compared to 1 in 10 in 1983; drug offenders constituted 21% of 1999 state prison inmates and 57% of 1999 federal prison inmates.

Black males have a 29% chance of serving time in prison at some point in their lives; Hispanic males have a 16% chance; white males have a 4% chance.

(Sources: Bureau of Justice Statistics and The Sentencing Project. August 2001)

CONVENTION, Cont'd From Page 5

Conferences, were recognized.

Dr. Priscilla A. Broadie gave the Secretary-Treasurer's report and led in singing "Praise Him". We need to increase our giving so that the Convention can meet its objectives.

Stewardship of Offerings for Soul-Winning and State Missions was by Mrs. Elizabeth Marrow. She quoted Proverbs 11:24. "There is one who scatters, yet increases more; And there is one who withholds more than is right, But it leads to poverty."

Ms. Vanessa Gregory reported that 200 young adults were present and they enjoyed the skit "When Candles Talk" by Mrs. Jettie Lucas.

The speaker for the afternoon was Rev. Quintrell Burrell, pastor, First Baptist Church, Weldon, NC. He was introduced by Rev. George Battle, Sr. Music was by First Baptist Church Choir, Weldon, NC.

The subject of Rev. Quintrell's sermon was "The Challenge At Our Gate". The scripture was Acts 3:1-9. Most people don't like challenges. We rather that things would become easy. There are challenges we have to face. Some obstacles can't be avoided. Esther went into the King's office without an appointment. She took a chance to save her nation. She said, "If I perish, I perish." God empowered Moses to go to Egypt for a great task to deliver his people. Moses complained of a speech impediment. Elijah proved to the prophets of Baal at Mt. Carmel that there was only one true and living god. God told Jonah to arise and go to Nineveh. The land that you want us to take is already occupied. The unavoidable challenges "Father if it is at all possible let this cup pass."

The victory is not about us, but that God's glory may be seen. Have enough faith that the challenge is not going to destroy you. Self-experience is the best testimony. Trials are to show someone else that the same God that brought you through will do the same for them.

Peter and John said to the lame man, "Silver and gold have I none, but what I have I will give you." The power precedes the Holy Spirit. The lame man was thinking that he would get a charitable gift from them like the others had given. Peter and John said, "In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk." When you know who you are and whose you are, you don't have to compete with others. Don't expect to bring someone out of lameness if you are lame yourself. We may be lame in belief and worship. Heal yourself before you try to heal others.

There are two sets of eyes (1) physical – see things as they are, (2) spiritual – catches things as they shall be. Your perception of what you see may not be comparable to the truth. Peter and John looked at him from their spiritual eyes. Look at how it shall be (spiritual eyes). Eyes have not seen the things that God had prepared for them. We don't respond to a need by acting like we don't see it. When you go to church you expect to receive something and then you can leave with something. The lame man needed to possess what Peter and John had, but he was not seeking it. The challenge is offering the man what he needs.

We are in the church and there is violence in the schools – pregnancy, drugs and alcohol. Right in the church there are broken homes, child abuse, liars, cheaters, thieves, isolation and beggars. We must deal with the challenges. God never gives us a challenge with means or a solution. Use what you have. Joshua you don't need a sword, all I want you to do is shout. David use your sling shot. Samson use the jaw. If you are going to deal with a situation, you have to use the right stuff. Anytime you use in the name of Jesus something happens. If we are going to reach the masses, we have to do it in the name of Jesus. Get ready to meet the challenge!

Music was by First Baptist Church Choir and the benediction was by Rev. Quintrell Burrell.

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GBSC 136th Annual Banquet in Memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. January 10, 2003

By Lucille Griswold Paige

The General Baptist State Convention and Auxiliaries celebrated their 136th Annual Banquet in memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at the Civic Center on Friday, January 10, 2003, at 6:30 p.m. Doctor John H. Grant presided. The theme was "To Serve the Present Age Through the Spirit of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr." Greetings and welcome were by Dr. Charles Bullock, president of GBSC.

The blessing was by Dr. Howard Parker, first vice president of GBSC. Dinner music was by the Martin Street Baptist Church Male Chorus and some classical recordings.

Announcements were made by Dr. Archie D. Logan concerning the Late Night Service to be held in the Oak Forest Ballroom at the Sheraton Capital Center Hotel on Salisbury Street, the speaker to be Rev. Ronnie Williams, Generostee Baptist Church, Anderson, SC. The 50th Annual One-Day Session of the Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention will be Saturday, January 11, 2003, 9 a.m. at the Civic Center.

Presentation of awards was made along with recognition of special guests, Rev. Nilous M. Avery, II and Dr. Leonzo Lynch. The presidential honorees were Dr. John D. Fuller, Sr., the Honorable Alphonso Jackson, Deputy Secretary U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Mrs. Colene B. Stanley, Rev. Dennis Leach and Mrs. Portia Thornton.

The presentation of the speaker was by Dr. Charles T. Bullock. The speaker was the Honorable Alphonso Jackson, who gives credit to his parents for all that he has been able to accomplish. His father had a fifth grade education and his mother had an eleventh grade education. They had 12 children and educated all of them. His parents were very positive. He grew up in the Catholic church.

As a people, we must be very positive – is our life out of order? If so, what can we do? Seize the hour and live our dreams. We spend more and have less, buy more and enjoy less, have more convenience but less time, have more degrees and less common sense. We multiply our possessions but reduce our values. We learn how to make a living but not a life. We have high income and low morals; more effort, but less success; more computers to get much information; more leisure, but less fun. We have cleaned up the air and polluted our souls. We have conquered outer space but can't get along with others. We watch too much television and don't pray at all.

We need inspiration and hope to get our lives together. He quoted "Amazing Grace" and "Like A Ship That's Tossed and Driven". He also quoted some lines from Langston Hughes' poem "Mother to Son" – "I'm still climbing, life ain't been no crystal ball". If you don't know where you are going, any road you take will get you there.

Mr. Jackson stated that we are lucky to live in America. He has lived in Africa, Asia, India and other countries, and America is the freest of all.

He was raised in the Catholic church but was drawn to the Baptist church because it seemed like there was more fun in the Baptist church. When he was in college he attended a Baptist church and found out that it was more lively than the Catholic church.

William James stated that we use less than 10% of our abilities. It's how we perceive ourselves. If we begin to believe in ourselves and think of what we want to achieve, we become what we think. Someone's opinion of you does not have to become a reality. Stay away from people who do not want to accomplish anything in their life. To live your dream and get your life together, you must have a goal. "I'm doing better than good, and better than most."

When you wake up in your right mind, you have another day to accomplish your dream. Shoot for the moon. If you miss, you will be among the stars. It's madness to live without a dream. Many people have not been seriously committed. When you eat an egg, the chicken has made a contribution. When you eat some bacon or ham, the hog was fully committed. What you give is what you get. The only time you get any help is when they are putting you six feet under.

Plan what you do. Develop self-discipline. Winners do things that losers don't want to do. Losers don't want to do anything. Take responsibility for what you want to make of your life. Losers let it happen. Winners make it happen. God made us, but we create our lives. Henry David Thoreau advises us to try to get on top in life. If you are not on your way up, you are in the way. Choose to be different. Stand erect, proud and unafraid. Mr. Jackson's father said if you get knocked down in life, try to land on your back. If you can look up, you can get up.

View a setback as a set up for your comeback.

Many blame others for their failure in life. Excuses are the tools of losers. Maintain faith. The only things that count are the things that happen in you. Faith is an asset. Believe in a power greater than yourself. Many lose confidence in prayer and faith because they don't understand what God can do. Pray for prosperity and to be able to see the good in every situation. He gave a little humor with the soap operas "Guiding Light", "One Life to Live", "The Young and Restless", "All My Children", etc.

Mr. Jackson marched with the freedom marchers and was bitten by dogs. When Dr. King was assassinated he was so distraught until he wrote a poem expressing his grief. He asked the questions, "What was his sin? What was his crime? He lamented "O my God, they've killed your son!"

The closing hymn was "We Shall Overcome". The benediction was by Rev. Ricky Banks.

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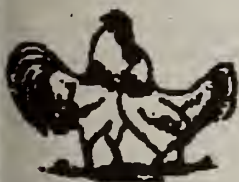
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Psalms 46:10 "Be Still and Know That I am God"
"He's More God Than I Ever Need"

State Ushers' News

By Alice W. McNair, Reporter

Ushers, as we welcome the New Year, 2003, and count your many blessings, let's remember Psalms



Forest Eaves

ushers, let us strive for excellence in

84:10: "I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of m God than dwell in the tents of unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the work of truth".

Presidents of

your ushers auxiliary in 2003 and our churches, by the grace of God, you can do it. Assist. Dean Roy Harris brought this lesson to us Nov. 9, 2002, at the Annual Workshop at the J.J. Johnson Assembly Building, Laurenburg, N.C. Let's ask ourselves, what level are we? Are we level 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5? I am asking each pres. to make a copy of this and pass it on by posting it on your bulletin board. Are you level 1 or 2? Please strive to be a 5 by Dec. 2003. Our new president, Pres. Eaves, wants you and encourages you to move forward and upward under his tenure. We can with God's help do just that. Let's make Pres. Eaves, coordinator Nancy High, and our new dean, Rev. Clowney and Bro.

Harris, proud of us. Let's be learned and educated ushers. To God be the Glory!

Hope to see all of you at the one-day session Feb. 22, 2003, at the Benton Convention Center, Winston-Salem, N.C.

What Level is Your Church's Usher Auxiliary?

Traditional – Level 1

Usher absenteeism is a problem. Not enough ushers. No first aid kit readily available. No training sessions are held. Ushering is a source of complaint to the Pastor. Dress code not adhered to. Nobody is in charge. Workstation cluttered. No emergency exit plan.

Learning – Level 2

Entrance generally clean. Some training taking place on key issues. Minimum emergency exit plan in place but not practiced. Group shows some evidence of team concept. A few ushers generally on time and in place, starting to see the need and importance of ushering.

Leading – Level 3

The workstation is generally clean. Ushers are on time. Group understands the importance of an emergency exit plan. Meetings address concerns. Usher group is a viable church ministry. Devotion held before service. Group performance is critiqued on a regular basis. Visual signals are used. The head usher is apparent. A schedule is used. Absenteeism is at a minimum. Some training standards and materials are being used. Group is starting to focus on parishioners needs.

World Class – Level 4

An emergency exit plan is in place and practiced once per year. The workstation is generally clean. Exit signs are prominently displayed. The auxiliary meets monthly. Complaints are addressed promptly. Improvement is evident by the church's comments. Members are on time and ready for service. All ushers have received standard training. Ushers are courteous. Absenteeism is not a problem, and cross-training is taking place.

Best In Class – Level 5

The workstation is spotless, clean and easy to maintain. The quality of meetings is improving. Ushers are a source of pride for the church. Parishioners are happy and their needs are met. Member training 10 hours/year is available on a regular basis with recognition. Most members can provide coaching. Emergency exit plans are a part of the church's calendar. Absenteeism is less than one usher per service. Ushers are pleasant, courteous, on time, properly dress, and attend to their personal spiritual growth by attending Bible study, prayer services, Sunday school, and activities of other Church auxiliaries for their spiritual growth and development.

REGISTRATION AND REPRESENTATION FORM THE 2003 ONE DAY SESSION

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Missionary Baptist Church Christian Education Ministry

By Portia H. Brandon, M.Div.
Christian Education Coordinator

Guidelines

The Christian Education Ministry shall be responsible for the planning and general supervision of the education ministries of the church. Its goal is to provide unified direction to those educational ministries so that each person in the body is being admonished and taught with all wisdom in order to present everyone complete in Christ (Col. 1:28).



Portia
Brandon

Structure

The Christian Education Ministry shall be formed with representatives from all phases of the church's educational ministries. A chairman shall be appointed by the pastor to provide guidance and accountability to the church.

Representatives shall be sought from the four major educational divisions: adult, youth, children, and support.

A coordinator for each division shall be appointed to assist in communication and accountability.

Responsibilities

General Areas

(1) Development of a Total Education Program. The general education policy of the church will be established by the Christian Education Ministry and it will see to the development of a specific educational program to achieve the purposes set forth in the church bylaws. This ministry is responsible for the implementing of its policies through a constructive, cohesive, Christ-centered Christian education program. It shall set the direction and spiritual quality of the Christian education program through prayer, example and guidance.

(2) Regular Evaluations of Church Educational Needs. The Christian Education Ministry will periodically make a careful survey of the educational program, facilities, equipment, budget, leadership, and curriculum to discover strengths and weaknesses. After reviewing their findings, the Christian Education Ministry will then recommend changes and improvements in the educational program.

(3) Oversight of Objectives for Christian Education. Clear-cut objectives or goals encourage accomplishment. The Christian Education Ministry will

assist groups in defining objectives and developing people and programs to meet them.

It seeks to keep the entire educational program established on the Word of God.

It also seeks to maintain an atmosphere of educational awareness in the body by constantly communicating important developments and opportunities for service.

Specific Areas

Selection and Approval of Educational Curriculum. The Christian Education Ministry through consultation with the educational leadership, approves all curricula for use in the church. Where a published curriculum is not used or is unavailable, guidelines shall be established by this ministry for the creative work of teachers and leaders.

Selection of Educational Personnel.

Surveying workers needed, listing available workers, setting standards for workers, developing a plan for recruitment, and approving workers represent the major duties of the commission. It also seeks to unify worker recruitment, protecting church members from becoming overloaded, and giving aid in securing personnel when necessary.

Training of Education Leadership.

An adequate and continuous program of teacher and leader education will be a high priority of this ministry.

Financial Policies and Administration of the Educational Budget

Work closely with the Stewardship Committee, and be responsible for the adequate budgeting of funds for educational programs.

Provision of Adequate Facilities and Equipment

The Christian Education Ministry shall foster educational awareness and understanding in the body utilizing methods such as displays, open house for parents, and reports to the congregation. It will also coordinate the use of available classroom space for education.

Study of Trends

Educational needs will be studied in the light of newer developments and changing conditions.

Evaluation and Reporting

The Christian Education Ministry will constantly evaluate all the educational work of the church to assure that it is scripturally sound and spiritually motivated.

Areas of Responsibility

Children's Ministries

Be responsible for the educational activities of children's programs from nursery through elementary school age.

Current examples include Children's Church, Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, Children's Program, training conferences, and all other children's activities throughout the week.

Youth Ministries

Be responsible for the youth ministries from junior high through the college age. Current examples include Sunday Bible classes, Bible studies, Sunday evening activities, and other activities that occur during the week.

Adult Ministries

Be responsible for adult education ministries. Current examples include Sunday adult Bible classes, special training ministries and other activities that occur during the week.

Support Ministries

Be responsible for the church library, audio-visual resources, sports activities and overall camping program as they relate to educational ministries as listed above.

Library

Be responsible for the oversight of the church library including the appointment of the librarian.

Publicity of Events

Be responsible to see that announcements of upcoming events provided for the bulletin and newsletter as deemed appropriate.

Areas Needing Approval by the Church

- New programs or major expansion of existing ones.
 - Annual Christian Education budget.
 - Expenditures outside of approved budget.
 - Program leadership and leadership standards.
 - Relationship with other ministries within the Church:
- Discipleship/Evangelism in relation to the Missions seek to develop an awareness and educate regarding missions by working with them to include available missionaries in annual programming.

One-Day Session Congress of Christian Education Classes & Instructions February 8, 2003

Division 1: Ministerial Development

Ministerial Ethics & Etiquette

Dr. R. Logan Carson

Division 2: Leadership Development

How to Build an Effective Christian Education Ministry

Dr. Jasper Reed



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Ms. Diane M. Newell

Division 4: Teacher Training and Development

Ministering to Adult Students (Age 19 and Up)

Rev. Carolyn Brown

Ministering to High School Students (Grades 9-12)

Mrs. Hazel McLean

Ministering to Middle School Students (Grades 6-8)

Mrs. Lodies Gloston

2003 Christian Education Handbook
Mrs. Portia Brandon

Revitalizing the Church's BTU
Mrs. Elizabeth Young

Division 3: The Sunday School How to Grow A Dynamic

Ministering to Older Elementary Students (Grades 3-5)
Mr. Frank Byrd

Ministering to Younger Elementary Students (Grades 1-2)
Ms. Yvonne McGraw

Ministering to Preschool Students (Pre K-Kindergarten)
Ms. Carol Trumilla McDowell

Division 5: Youth Ministry
The Purpose Driven Youth Ministry
Rev. Jamale Johnson

Oratorical Contest Interest
Ms. Alberta Moore
Mrs. Constance Finch

Division 6: Biblical and Course Studies

Introduction to the Old Testament
Dr. Leonzo Lynch

Division 7: Music in Worship
The Minister of Music: Role and Responsibilities
Mr. David Eggleston

Church Music vs. Music in the Church
Mrs. Ira Wolfe

Djvision 8: Youth Department
Youth Assembly (Ages 4 thru 18)
Ms. Robbie Williams
Rev. Deloris Redman
Dr. A. Stanley Richardson

Laymen's News

By Theodore David

But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the

things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit; for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. I Corinthians 2:9-10.



Deacon John Gladden

We experience great joy in knowing that the Spirit of God is working in us to reveal the "deep things of God". Those revelations are quite clear against the backdrop of God's love, mercy, and never-ending grace and those revelations provide additional incentive for us to keep pressing towards the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Jesus Christ.

The Laymen's League Auxiliary had a "mountain-top experience" on Saturday, December 14, 2002 as Laymen traveled across the State of

NC to Jones Chapel Baptist Church in Laurinburg, NC, where the Reverend T. R. Davis serves as Pastor and Brother James Bullock serves as the local Laymen's League President.

The session marked the first Executive Board Meeting (9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.) and Quarterly Study Commission Meeting (10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.) under the administration of our new President, Deacon John Gladden, who attends Second Calvary Baptist Church located in Charlotte, NC. Brother Theodore David, 1st Vice President and Chairman of the Laymen's Study Commission, presided during the Quarterly meeting.

The Laymen gathered in the sanctuary of Jones Chapel and were favored with spiritual Male Chorus singing from 9 – 10 a.m. while State Laymen League Officers were conducting the Executive Board Meeting. Brother Howard Purdue, State Laymen's League Musician, will continue to coordinate this musical inspiration hour at each quarterly meeting and encourages all Laymen (youth and adult) to participate by sharing your musical talents. Whether it be a Male Chorus (large or small), whether it be playing a wind or string instru-

ment (horns, guitars, piano/organ, etc.), or whether you participate by just being present and joining in, we can all enjoy magnifying the Lord together during the "Laymen's Inspirational Hour of Power".

The Study Commission meeting (10 a.m. – 12 noon) featured 3rd Vice President Gregory Gabriel who spoke concerning "God's Grace" and also featured a workshop conducted by Deacon James Bernard Bullock who hails from Rocky Mount, NC. Brother Bullock let us know what makes a Christian. During the workshop, he elaborated on the following:

- What you might be, and still not be a Christian
 - Born in a Christian Country
 - Born in a Christian Family
 - Educated in a Christian fashion
 - Connected with a Christian Church
 - Buried in a Christian Manner
- What is it to be an Almost Christian
 - To see your need and not confess it
 - To wish to be saved and remain undecided
 - To be at the door, but still outside

- What is a Christian
 - One who has received Christ
 - One who belongs to Christ
 - One who is like Christ
 - One who serves Christ

Also during this Quarterly Study Commission, the Laymen's League Body elected Brother Bennett C. David as the Youth Laymen's League President. He has faithfully served as the Youth Laymen's League 1st Vice President during the last four years. He is 13 years old and attends Ligon Middle School and Watts Chapel Baptist Church, both located in Raleigh, NC. Brother Justin Davis was elected as the Youth Laymen's Vice President. He attends Jones Chapel Baptist Church located in Laurinburg, NC.

The next Quarterly Laymen's League Study Commission meeting will be held March 8, 2003 at Antioch Baptist Church, Charlotte, NC. Each Church and Association has been asked to give \$400 towards the Laymen's League Budget. Though you may give your assessment at any time, you are encouraged to give \$200 by the Mid-Year Session and \$200 by the Annual Session. All Laymen are encouraged to attend the next meeting and come prepared to worship, fellowship, and help us lift up the name of Jesus.

EVANGELISM NEWS

What Is Evangelism?

By Rev. Robert McGowen

There are three (3) definitions of Evangelism I have found helpful.

The first one is one word – OVERFLOW.

It gives the right nuance of someone who is so full of joy about Jesus Christ that it overflows like a bathtub that is filled to overflow with water. Paul reminds the Thessalonians that "our gospel comes to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and (in much plerophoria), much confident overflow (1 Thessalonians 1,5).

The second definition is a phrase attributed to C. H. Spurgeon, the famous nineteenth-century British preacher and evangelist. He maintained that Evangelism "is one beggar

telling another beggar where to get bread". There is no way that an evangelist is any better or on any higher ground than the person to whom he is talking. The ground is level around the cross of Christ. The only difference between the two hungry beggars is that one has been fed and knows where food is always available.

But perhaps the most all embracing definition of Evangelism belongs to the English Archbishop William Temple in the report entitled "Towards the Conversion of England" and runs as follows:

"To evangelize is to present Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit, that men shall come to put their trust in God through him, to accept him as their Savior, and serve him as their

King in the fellowship of his church."

And that says some very important things about Evangelism:

No. 1. Evangelism is one of the primary reasons for the Church's existence.

No. 2. Evangelism is the good news about Jesus.

No. 3. Evangelism in order to be

effective depends entirely on the work of the Holy Spirit.

No. 4. Evangelism means incorporation into the Church, the body of Christ.

No. 5. Evangelism challenges decisions.

No. 6. Evangelism issues in discipleship.



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A Historical Observation

By Dr. Jasper P. Reed
GBSC Historian

One of the essentials of being a historian is to be able to insert yourself, in spirit, into the events and periods you are describing or writing about. As I attempt-



Dr. Jasper
Reed

ed to characterize, in the past two articles, time periods and related events leading up to the founding of our General Baptist State Convention I found myself struggling with the conflicts of those times.

While pondering my plight in this struggle I was relieved by one of my favorite passages of scripture. Psalm 50:15 says, "And call upon me in thy day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me." Often times we have no idea as to from where or how our deliverance will come. The challenge to us is to remain focused while we are waiting.

As I sat in the choir stand on December 22, 2002 my Pastor in his morning sermon opened the gate for me to gain a perspective concerning the struggles I was pondering. The Lord

spoke to my needs as the Pastor spoke to the congregation. I am glad I was present, listening and worshipping that day. He preached about the *Battle Raging In Bethlehem*. He took a line from Phillips Brooks who penned, "O Little Town of Bethlehem". He focused on that part of verse one which says, "The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight." Before we pack up everything from the recent holidays let me translate Brooks' words to my historical observations and attempt to use them to explain my ponderings about the *Battle Raging In Goldsboro*.

After reading the history of North Carolina during the years 1850 through 1900, as it pertains to African Americans during and immediately after slavery, and from "A Splendid Enterprise, edited by Dr. W. B. Lewis" I found myself overwhelmed with queries. I am mindful that God is never absent from our situations even when we don't invite Him. Just imagine having gone through a period when trust was being tested on all sides. You could attend white church services but you had to sit along the wall of the sanctuary or in some location other than the main or center part of the sanctuary. You could have your own church services but with a white minister who constantly focused on the master/slave relationship. Especially he spoke about the commandments that stressed your obedience to

your master. You could have your own church services with an African American minister. One in which you could, if you trusted and had faith, exercise your gifts and talents in a worshipful relationship.

What then were the hopes and fears that attended the way as the GBSC was being formulated. Random House defines Hope as the feeling that what is desired is also possible or to believe, desire or trust. Listen to David in Psalm 38:15-16, "For in thee, O Lord, do I hope: thou wilt hear, O Lord my God. For I said, Hear me, lest otherwise they should rejoice over me: when my foot slippeth, they magnify themselves against me." Now listen to the hopes of our founders as they step out on faith trusting in their life long obedient relationship with God. Hear them as they implore or make urgent or piteous supplications to the God of their salvation. All the time they knew that Satan was not far away. He, through his representatives, would rejoice over these Christians if and when their feet would slip. Yet our founders realized that what they wanted to do they needed help to do it. They did not possess the training and experiences to structure an independent convention to meet the needs of African Americans at that time. So in spite of their hopes they were still haunted by fears growing out of trust. What then are fears?

Another Random House definition. Fears are distressing emotions aroused by

an impending unknown among other things. Especially is this true when we are confronted by threatening danger or evil intents. Our founders remembered what David said in Psalm 23:4, "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me." Their faith and trust in God was enough to carry them through the process. When we are seeking help it is difficult to ascertain what is in the minds and in the hearts of those we seek out as advisors. These were troubling times and were periods when they needed to go to God in Prayer for directions. By the help of God they found what they were looking for to take them from a vision to a functional convention. Lest we end this segment believing that the fears were all between black and white or Southern Baptist and budding General Baptist, our founders had some additional fears to overcome. They at that time, and we at this time, need to overcome personal bias, remembrances of hurt and avoidance, pride and its attending costs as we go to God for help believing that He can and will help. Remember we praise Him not just for what He does but for who He is. He is able to make GBSC even greater than we can imagine. It worked then and we can achieve the same results as we seek to minister even now. ■

MINISTER'S COUNCIL

News from the Minister's Council

By Dr. Donaldson Jones, President

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

On behalf of Vice-President Rev. Walter S. Taylor and our very fine minister's council

staff, we pray that you and yours will have a very prosperous, peaceful and progressive year ahead. We are truly thankful to God and our beloved convention president Dr. Charles Bullock, for this opportunity to

serve the GBSC family. This year's Leadership Summit 2003 will be Thursday, March 6 and Friday, March 7, 2003.

The conference is being hosted by the

Mt. Peace Baptist Church, 1601 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., Raleigh, NC where that prominent preaching prince and valiant visionary, Dr. J. Vincent Terry serves as pastor.

In keeping with Dr. Bullock's theme for our convention "to serve this present age", the minister's council sub-theme is "being living sacrifices in the loving spirit of the Lord and Saviour." Rom. 12:1, Phil. 2:3-11, John 13:34-35.

Leadership Summit 2003 will have a valuable variety of premium preaching and transformative teaching from pastors and preachers from across the state and around the nation. We are more than pleased to announce that the 2003 Distinguished Lecturer for Leadership Summit 2003 is the Rev. Dr. James Allen, Pastor of Vine Memorial Baptist Church, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Dr. Allen also serves as the Director of the Minister's Division of the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education of NBC, USA, Inc. This conference is

going to be a succulently scrumptious smorgasbord of spiritual and scholastic delectables that will simultaneously feed and fill the head and heart.

Consider this grand galaxy of ecclesiastical stars that shall illuminate us with instruction.

**Instructor
Course**

Dr. David Briggs

Communication passion in your preaching

Rev. Everett Dickerson

Church Administration

Dr. Terry Thomas

Developing Fruit Bearing Disciples

Dr. James Smith

Managing Conflict in the Church:

A Legal Perspective

Dr. Benjamin Hinton

Transitional Leadership in the 21st Century

Rev. Fredrick James

The Minister's Benefits

Rev. Richard Thomas

Ministers and Mental Health

You may choose from any two of these courses which will be offered both days of the conference, morning and evening. On Friday morning and evening only, Dr. Logan Carson, our senior instructor with a PhD and a BA, been born again, will offer a course in Ministerial Ethics.

We sincerely solicit your prayers and presence that Leadership Summit 2003 in some way, large or small, will serve as succor and catharsis for striving, struggling, stressed or suffering clergy. I am sure you will also join me in praying that this conference will aid and accentuate our adoration for the almighty and affection for one another. For all who can, let those of us that share the same heart for the Holy community – the church and the Heavenly King of the Cosmos-Christ, shake hands at Leadership Summit 2003.

Blessings upon you. ■

Baptist Informer Youth Corner

By Delores Griffey

February is the month we think about two things: Black History and Valentine's Day.



Dolores Griffey

Black History Month is when people come together to celebrate the freedom and joy of black people being free. Americans have recognized black history annually since 1926, first as "Negro History Week" and later as "Black History Month". What you might not know is that we owe the celebration of Black History Month, and more importantly, the study of black history to Dr. Carter G. Woodson. Born to parents who were former slaves, he spent his childhood working in the Kentucky coal mines and enrolled in high school at age 20. He graduated within two years and later went on to earn a Ph.D. from Harvard.

Every February, across the country cards, flowers, and gifts are exchanged between loved ones, all in the name of St. Valentine. But who is this mysterious saint and why do we celebrate this holiday?

The history of Valentine's Day – and its patron saint – is shrouded in mystery. But we do know that February has long been a month of romance. St. Valentine's Day, as we know it today, contains vestiges of both Christian and ancient Roman tradition. Today, the Catholic Church recognizes at least three different saints named Valentine or Valentinus, all of whom are martyred. One legend contends that Valentine was a priest who served during the third century in Rome. According to one legend, Valentine actually sent the first 'valentine' greeting himself. While in prison, it is believed that Valentine fell in love with a young girl – who may have been his jailer's daughter – who visited him during his confinement. Before his death, it is alleged that he wrote her a letter which he signed 'From your Valentine', an expression that is still in use today.

We will talk about the love of God. Do Unto Others as You Would Have Them Do Unto You

The Bible Study Manual is a first in a series developed by Jimmie and Deloris Whitehurst, Creative Christian Educators.

The manual presents a clear "Straight Forward" approach to several key doctrines and current issues facing the church today.

The manual presents 29 lessons and outlines for Comprehensive Bible Studies, \$15.95 a copy. Send check or money order to: Dr. Jimmie Whitehurst, P.O. Box 31093, Raleigh, NC 27622.

This lesson is going to discuss the love of God. How God loves us and how He expects us to love one another.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:16

Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. John 15:13

Most Christians know these verses. The first speaks of the love of the Father, who gave His Son as a sacrifice for our sins. The second tells of the love of the Son, who was willing to come as that sacrifice.

Did Jesus Christ love us so much that He was willing to die for us?

Eph. 5:2 Walk in love, as Christ also has loved us, and has given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savor.

I John 4:11 If God so loved us, we ought to love one another. How are we to love others?

I John 3:18 My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed, and in truth.

God wants us to do more than SAY we love others. He wants us to walk in love.

Eph. 5:2 Walk in love, as Christ also has loved us.

How do we walk in love?

Gal. 5:13 By love serve one another.

When we try and judge others we are judging God's servants.

Are we clearly told NOT to judge others? What happens if we do judge others?

John 1:2-5 Judge not, that you be not judged. With what judgment you judge, you shall be judged: and with what measure you meet, it shall be measured to you again.

To fail to show love toward others could lead to our missing out on eternal life! Is love listed first on the fruit of God's spirit?

Gal. 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is LOVE, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance.

It pays to practice peace. It pays to exercise the love of God. Those who do will enter into the kingdom of God at Christ's return.

Bottom line is found in Luke 6:31 *As you wish that men would do to you, do so to them!*

By Dr. Elbert Lee

How can gerontology help to contribute to a better way of life for the elderly? Dr. Elbert Lee, a consultant to the Institute on Gerontological Ministries and Services, Shaw Divinity School, seeks to provide answers in the discipline of



Dr. Elbert Lee

gerontology, a program that he initiated and conducted for a number of years at the school. From biology, psychology, sociology, economics, political theory, medicine, health care delivery, philosophy and religion, facts have been collected to improve the quality of life for the aged. Dr. Lee brings his insights from these areas to help equip students for ministry to the aged.

It is Dr. Lee's contention that the Shaw Divinity School is in a unique position, for it is one of the few seminaries in the country that offers a curriculum in gerontology for ministers and religious workers.

Dr. Lee notes that there is a faculty of well-trained personnel in ministry that can provide for services to older adults, especially so among blacks involved in local parish ministries. The program of gerontological ministries developed out of the interest of former students, who saw the need for receiving some formal training in gerontology and geriatrics, and persons from Wake and neighboring counties who saw similar needs.

Today, there are numerous students enrolled in the gerontology program, thanks to the hard work and dedication of Dr. Lee. We salute him for bringing such an outstanding and innovated program to the Divinity School.

Doctors study the illnesses of older people, biologists study the physical changes aging brings to the cells of the body, psychiatrists study mental illness among older people, psychologists study age changes in sensory perception, economists study the income requirements of older people, architects design special housing for older people, and the sociologists study the relationship between older people and their society and culture. Almost every area of study dealing with man or his needs has a branch which deals with older man. All of these tiny branches of these many fields come together under the name of gerontology – literally the logic of aging.

There are four related but separate aspects to the study of aging. The biological

Gerontology

aspect deals with physical aging – the body's gradual loss of the ability to renew itself. The psychological aspect deals with the sensory processes, perception, motor skills, intelligence, problem-solving, understanding, learning, drives, and emotions of the aging individual. The biological and psychological changes, which occur with advancing age coupled with the social environment of the individual, produce a third aspect – the behavioral. This aspect of aging deals with attitudes, expectations, motives, the self-image, social roles, personality, and psychological adjustment to the situation. Finally, the sociological aspect of aging deals with the society in which aging occurs, the influence this society has on the aging individual, and the influence he has on it. The older person's health, income, work, and leisure, as these relate to his family, friends, voluntary associations, and religious groups, as well as to society in general, the economy, the government, and the community are all part of the sociology of aging.

These four aspects of aging – biological, psychological, behavioral, and sociological – are all interrelated in the life of any older person.

Shaw Divinity School

- Institute of Gerontological Ministries and Services
- Motto "Looking at Aging Professionally and Theologically"

The church meeting the major needs of the elderly.

The Church and Gerontology offers:

- A Christian perspective on aging.
- A spiritual pilgrimage.
- A program for older adults in the church.
- Community concerns for the aging. (a handbook about care in the home)
- Information on Home Health Services.
- Evaluating the Quality of Home Care Services.
- How to arrange a Homebound Person's Environment.
- Setting Goals and Objectives for Church Programs.
- Nutritional concerns.

This program will feature the following:

- Physical Fitness/Exercise Program.
- Theological courses will be offered at the Shaw Divinity School for the Master Degree and Diploma Program.
- Support Groups for certain days of the week.

By Dr. A. T. Griffey, III, Statistician
Peace Be Unto You:

New Every Morning

God loved us so much that He gave His Son as a sacrifice for our sins, that through faith we might be brought back into a full and intimate relationship with our Heavenly Father for all

eternity. I think we often forget the magnitude of this love: we were dead and He provided us a way to live!

Lamentations 3:22-23:

"Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for His compassions

never fail. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness."

God has expressed His absolute love and compassion through the forgiveness found in Jesus Christ. This forgiveness is total and complete for those who believe. When we place our trust in Jesus, we are washed clean - we become "a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come" (2 Corinthians 5:17). And we continue to be washed clean "every morning."

We all have days when our sinful nature wins a battle and we stumble. We have a day when our anger, pride, fear, or lust is brought to the surface and we "do what we do not want to do" (Romans 7:16). We may need to seek forgiveness and earn back trust from those we've hurt, but God's forgiveness and love is free for the asking; "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins" (1 John 1:9). We may lose some of

the battles, but through Jesus, the war has been won.

Since we have been washed clean - and continue to be washed clean - we must stop walking as though we are still soiled. We are children of God and in the process of being conformed to the likeness of His Son. This process of growth and maturity - of victorious transformation - must continue each and every morning. We must shed the heavy burdens of past failures (and the fear of future disappointments) and walk in the freshness of His forgiveness.

Is our relationship with God fresh and new? Do we still comprehend the magnitude of love encompassed in the gift of forgiveness? or have we grown complacent and cold? When was the last time our love for God was so fresh on our heart that we couldn't help but say THANK YOU!?

We are invited to a relationship with our Heavenly Father - an intimate relationship which involves loving and being loved; a relationship which allows us to walk in victory for His glory and to be guided by the power of His Spirit. Let's give Him our all and receive His all in return. Let's rise up in His strength and determine to make our relationship of love new every morning.

Have a Great Day!

Our goal is to reach 15,000 souls for Christ by the end of this year! (Help Us Reach It) Please share the Word of God with someone you love or that is in need of an uplifting word...

The web-site of the Month, check it out you will be Blessed

<http://www.mtcarmel-ws.org> and
<http://www.nbcamerica.net>

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New Health Programs Launched

By Charolette H. Leach, BS. M. S.

The Office of Health and Human Services of the General Baptist State Convention of NC is pleased to announce the launching of two new health programs.



Charolette Leach

We are particularly excited about expanding our collaboration with GBSC churches, associations and auxiliaries.

Expanding our collaboration with the Laymen's League, we will work closely

with the Rowan Association in piloting a "Picture Me Tobacco Free" initiative. The Project is funded by the NC Health and Wellness Trust Fund Commission for three years.

Most tobacco use begins during the teenage years. A 2001 NC Youth Tobacco Survey found that approximately 61% African-American high school students had ever used any tobacco product and 18% were current smokers. Approximately 48% of African-American middle school students had ever used any tobacco product and 18% were current smokers.

The primary goals of the project include preventing tobacco use among youth, promoting quitting among youth that already smoke, and reducing youth exposure to environmental tobacco.

Two-thirds of NC preventable deaths have been attributed to tobacco, nutrition, and physical activity. With this new project, we are now developing prevention and health promotion programs to serve our congregations in each of these critical areas. Look for more information on the tobacco project in the next *Informer*.

More Details to Follow!!

Help with Prescription Drugs Planned

The prohibitive and rising cost of prescription drugs is no secret. We are in the early stages of a new initiative with the Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign



Dr. Anita Holmes

Missionary Convention of NC and NC Senior Care to assist eligible congregation and community members receive services through the Senior Care prescription drug card program. The NC Senior Care Program is designed for persons who are NC residents 65 years of age or older with an annual household income during 2001 of \$17,180 or less if single or widowed or \$23,220 or less if married.

To qualify individuals may not have any other prescription drug insurance including Medicaid. Medications must be for the treatment of the following illnesses:

- Angina (Chest Pain)
- Arrhythmia (Irregular Heart Beat)
- Asthma, Bronchitis
- Diabetes mellitus (High Blood Sugar)
- Emphysema
- Heart failure
- Hyperlipidemia (High Cholesterol)
- Hypertension (High Blood Pressure)

Services are readily available. You may call the toll free Senior Care member service line directly at 1-866-226-1388.

GBSC and WBH&FMC are planning a program to increase awareness and assist with enrollment. Further details will be published in the next *Informer*.

More Information to Follow!!

Recipes of the Month

Spicy Southern Barbecued Chicken

5 Tbsps tomato paste (3 oz)
3/4 tsp cayenne pepper
1 tsp ketchup
1/8 tsp black pepper
2 tps honey
1/4 tsp onion powder
1 tsp molasses
2 cloves garlic, minced
1 tsp Worcestershire sauce
1 tsp ginger, grated
1/8 tsp vinegar, white
4 tps chicken, skinless (breasts, drumsticks)
1-1/2 lbs

Combine all ingredients except chicken in a saucepan. Simmer for 15 minutes. Wash chicken and pat dry. Place chicken on a large platter. Brush chicken with 1/2 of sauce mixture. Cover with plastic wrap and marinate in refrigerator for 1 hour. Place chicken on a baking sheet lined with aluminum foil and broil for 10 minutes on each side to seal in juices. Turn oven down to 350° F, and add the remaining sauce to the chicken. Cover the chicken with aluminum foil and continue baking for 30 minutes.

Makes 6 servings
Serving size: 1/2 breast or 2 small drumsticks
Calories 176
Fat 4 g
Saturated fat less than 1 g
Cholesterol 81 mg
Sodium 199 mg

Source: National Institutes of Health, Heart Healthy Home Cooking African American Style.

Delicious Oven French Fries

4 large potatoes (2 lbs)
1 tsp white pepper
8 cups ice water
1/4 tsp allspice
1 tsp garlic powder
1 tsp hot pepper flakes
1 tsp onion powder
1 tsp vegetable oil
1/4 tsp salt

Scrub potatoes and cut into long 1/2-inch strips. Place potato strips into ice water, cover, and chill for 1 hour or longer. Remove potatoes and dry strips thoroughly. Place garlic powder, onion powder, salt, white pepper, allspice, and pepper flakes in a plastic bag. Toss potatoes in spice mixture. Brush potatoes with oil. Place potatoes in nonstick shallow baking pan. Cover with aluminum foil and place in 475° F oven for 15 minutes. Remove foil and continue baking uncovered for an additional 15 to 20 minutes or until golden brown. Turn fries occasionally to brown on all sides.

Makes 5 servings
Serving size: 1 cup
Calories 238
Fat 4 g
Saturated Fat 1 g
Cholesterol 0 mg
Sodium 163 mg

Source: National Institutes of Health, Heart Healthy Home Cooking African American Style.

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Tuesday Evening Girl Scouts - 6:00 pm
Wednesday Evening Intercessory Prayer - 6:30 pm
Wednesday Evening Bible Study - 7:00 pm
Thursday Evening Woman's Fellowship - 7:00 pm

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Dr. A.T. Griffey, III
Senior Pastor

Martin Luther King Jr. Commission

By Dr. Thomas L. Walker

The North Carolina Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission joins the many communities across North Carolina as they pause to celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The challenge of this celebration is to live and articulate the dream and conviction of this great humanitarian. Had Dr. King lived this would be his 74th birthday.

Considering all of the challenges of our nation such as the economic woes, the great decline of confidence in corporate America, the abandonment of the war on poverty and even the threat of widespread war, I am sure Dr. King would be very vocal in opposing these conditions. As related to the threat of war, you recall Dr. King was almost a lone voice speaking against the Vietnam War. Many opposed him, but now most Americans agree that the Vietnam War was an unnecessary and tragic event. If Dr. King were alive he would advocate living together in peace. The complex nature of the potential war in the Middle East and the great disaster of 9/11 cause great confusion in the minds of the average American. However, in the word of Dr. Martin Luther King, "My conscience leaves me no other choice" but to challenge the citizens of America to raise serious questions about the sending of our armed forces into harm's way without exhausting all other remedies. After all, our government is supposedly "by the people, for the people, and of the people". To again quote Dr. King, "A time comes when silence is betrayal." That time has come that the people of America must question the motives of the leaders of our country and the politics that allow our country to continue to create and support dictators who subsequently turn their powers against America.

Dr. King said, "Even when pressed by

the demands of inner truth, men do not easily assume the task of opposing their government's policy, especially in time of war . . . we must speak with all the humility that is appropriate to our limited vision, but we must speak." Lest we forget, history has proven to us that every great nation which has attempted to rule the world has either been destroyed or thoroughly defeated, namely, the Roman Empire, Greece, Germany, Italy, Japan and others. While I agree that we need to use all of our available resources to bring to justice evil forces that would carry out terrible tragedies such as 9/11, God himself has not chosen to rid the world of all evil, at this moment. Therefore, the challenge of America is to make sure our motives are those of peace and not destruction. And so, like Dr. King, I join the voices of dissent in calling on our President and his cabinet to pray diligently before committing our men and women to war; and I call upon all citizens of faith and goodwill to join me in prayer for the leaders of our country – for these are times that try men's souls. I also trust that we will have a great awakening to realize that the increasing gap between the "haves and have nots" is more dangerous to the survival of our country than any other threat. I believe we must re-establish our war on poverty in this country.

Update on the NC Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission's Work

For 2003, the North Carolina Martin Luther King Commission awarded 23 counties a combined total of \$50,000 to help fund their Martin Luther King activities. We will not have a Bell Ringing service this year because each year we are faced with the conflict of many MLK Commission members being involved with leading the Martin Luther King activities in their own communities. However, we are asking all communities across North Carolina to simultaneously ring their freedom bells at 11:00 AM on Monday, January 20, 2003. Again, we commend all communities across the state for their efforts in keeping the dream of freedom, peace, justice, and equality alive through the celebration of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.

The History of Black History

By Elissa Haney

Americans have recognized black history annually since 1926, first as "Negro History Week" and later as "Black History Month". What you might not know is that black history had barely begun to be studied – or even documented – when the tradition originated. Although blacks have been in America at least as far back as colonial times, it was not until the 20th century that they gained a respectable presence in the history books.

Blacks Absent from History Books

We owe the celebration of Black History Month, and more importantly, the study of black history, to Dr. Carter G. Woodson. Born to parents who were former slaves, he spent his childhood working in the Kentucky coal mines and enrolled in high school at age twenty. He graduated within two years and later went on to earn a Ph.D. from Harvard. The scholar was disturbed to find in his studies that history books largely ignored the black American population – and when blacks did figure into the picture, it was generally in ways that reflected the inferior social position they were assigned at the time.

Established Journal of Negro History

Woodson, always one to act on his ambitions, decided to take on the challenge of writing black Americans into the nation's history. He established the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (now called the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History) in 1915, and a year later founded the widely respected Journal of Negro

History. In 1926, he launched Negro History Week as an initiative to bring national attention to the contributions of black people throughout American history.

Woodson chose the second week of February for Negro History Week because it marks the birthdays of two men who greatly impacted the American black population, Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln. However, February has much more than Douglass and Lincoln to show for its significance in black American history. For example:

- **February 23, 1868:** W. E. B. DuBois, important civil rights leader and co-founder of the NAACP, was born.
- **February 3, 1870:** The 15th Amendment was passed, granting blacks the right to vote.
- **February 25, 1870:** The first black U. S. senator, Hiram R. Revels (1822-1901), took his oath of office.
- **February 12, 1909:** The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) was founded by a group of concerned black and white citizens of New York City.
- **February 1, 1960:** In what would become a civil-rights movement milestone, a group of black Greensboro, NC, college students began a sit-in at a segregated Woolworth's lunch counter.
- **February 21, 1960:** Malcolm X, the militant leader who promoted Black Nationalism, was shot to death by three Black Muslims.

Upcoming Sessions

February 8, 2003
One-Day Session
Congress of Christian Education
 Benton Convention Center
 301 West Fifth Street
 Winston-Salem, NC 27101
 336-727-2976

February 22, 2003
One-Day Session
Usher's Convention
 Benton Convention Center
 301 West Fifth Street
 Winston-Salem, NC 27101
 336-727-2976

March 6-7, 2003
Ministers' Council
Leadership Conference
 Mt. Peace Baptist Church
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 Raleigh, NC
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Reverend Jeff Locus Selected to Become the Chaplain/Pastor with the Federal Bureau of Prisons

Michael R. Smith, Sr., Chairman
Jeff Locus, Co-Chairman

Congratulations are in order for Reverend Jeff Locus who has been selected to become the Chaplain/Pastor with the Federal Bureau of Prisons at the



Rev. Michael Smith, Sr.

In addition, he has served the past three years as the Co-Chairman of the GBSC Institutional & Specialized Ministries. Jeff Locus is a highly trained and quality minister who is also an Associate in Ministry at First Baptist Church of



Jeff Locus

Raleigh under the pastorate of Dr. Dumas Harshaw. He also holds the Master's of Divinity degree from Duke Divinity School in Durham, NC. His dedication and ministry skills will be missed as he moves to assume this special opportunity in reaching, reconciling and restoring lives impacted by crime and incarceration. I was truly blessed to have Reverend Locus as the ISM Co-Chairman and welcome him now as a fellow Chaplain/Pastor with the Federal Bureau of Prisons. I know that FCI Cumberland and the Federal Bureau of Prisons Chaplaincy will greatly benefit from the

pastoral ministry of Jeff Locus. To God our Father and Jesus Christ Be All the Glory! Hallelujah!!!

New Wine in New Wineskins Matthew 9:16-17

I believe the Holy Spirit is inspiring many in the Church to be innovative and creative in doing ministry in the 21st century. The problems and issues of a sinful fallen world will never change. Yet, the way the Church does ministry needs to be relevant and understanding of the mindset of those we seek to reach. When it comes to ministry to lives impacted by crime and incarceration, the Church can no longer do ministry as usual. The renowned Gardner C. Taylor said in 1990 at the GBSC Evangelism Conference at White Rock Baptist Church in Durham, NC, "Our evangelistic efforts in the prisons must go beyond just tambourines and drums." I interpreted him to mean the Church must be creative and innovative in bringing effective ministry into the midst of crime and incarceration. Let me say it again, our state is facing a crime and incarceration crisis. Sometimes I feel like Jeremiah, and I am speaking to deaf ears. Yet, because of my divine calling to his ministry, I know God's Word will not come back void. I call the GBSC leaders and churches:

To seek out the ISM for training to equip you for ministry in this part of the mission field.

To support the church plant of the Cross of Christ Church at the Federal Correctional Complex in Butner, NC.

To support our full-time state funded chaplains who face a crisis of being eliminated due to the budget crisis in 2003. (See January 2003 Baptist Informer)

To work together in every GBSC association by teaming up and doing ministry in a correctional facility in your county.

To pray about which specific type of ministry you need to be involved in: At-Risk Youth Ministry, In-Prison Ministry, Pre-release & Aftercare

Ministry or Victims of Crime Ministry.

The key to bringing effective ministry is in the words of Jesus to John the Baptist's disciples who questioned Him regarding fasting. Jesus' response centers on them recognizing what time it was for His disciples in their particular ministry.

The Bridegroom was still with them and the time would come when He would be gone and fasting would be a necessity. Then Jesus uses an illustration of ultimately putting new wine into new wineskins. In essence, you don't keep trying to do new and creative ministry from an old outdated model of ministry. It will not work. The solution is to do new and creative ministry from new and creative models of ministry. This is the challenge for the GBSC as it relates to prison ministry. We must abandon the "tambourine and drum" approach and embrace the model of planting, making disciples and nurturing churches within the prisons. We must invest in At-Risk Youth ministries that engage At-Risk Youth out in the midst of our communities instead of inviting people to come to our church buildings. We must minister to the vic-

tims of crime in long term ways as they seek to overcome the pain and loss of being victimized. We must build Christian aftercare facilities that provide biblical accountability and support for persons transitioning back to our communities. We must shed the old wineskins of our "church buildings" and allow the Holy Spirit to fill us with His power and put on the new wineskins of "Being the Church" out in the midst of crime and incarceration. Jesus did not die so I could "go to church". He died in order for me to "Be His Church". The new wine of the Holy Spirit will empower a yielded life that is fired of the old wineskin of "church building centered Christianity" and ready to put on the new wineskin of "being the Body of Christ". Only new wine can go into new wineskins. The time is now to abandon dead ineffective ministry and institutionalized Christianity. The time is now to embrace fresh, new, innovative and exciting ministry in reaching, reconciling and restoring lives impacted by crime and incarceration. Let those who hear, hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church. ■

Important ISM Announcements

1ST ANNUAL AT-RISK YOUTH CONFERENCE
FEBRUARY 21 - 22, 2003

SPRINGFIELD MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH
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Rev. Wavey B. Williams, Conference Organizer/Sponsor

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3RD ANNUAL CRIME & INCARCERATION CONFERENCE
AUGUST 1 - 2, 2003
LOCATION - TBA

INSTITUTIONAL & SPECIALIZED MINISTRIES LEADERSHIP

Michael R. Smith, Sr., Chairman
Senior Chaplain/Pastor - Federal Correctional Complex, Butner, NC
Jeff Locus, Co-Chairman
Chaplain/Pastor - Pamlico Correctional Institution, Bayboro, NC
Betty Brown, Coordinator of In-Prison Ministries
Chaplain/Pastor - NC Correctional Institution for Women, Raleigh, NC
Wright Cadwell, Coordinator of In-Prison Ministries
Associate Minister - First Baptist Church, Raleigh, NC
Paul Bridges, Coordinator of Aftercare Ministries
Associate Minister - First Baptist Church, Raleigh, NC
Carolyn Brown, Coordinator of Aftercare

Ministries
Associate Minister - North End Baptist Church, Rocky Mount, NC
Laura Johnson, Coordinator of Victim Ministries
Assistant Pastor - First Baptist Church, Zebulon, NC
Leonard Shadding, Coordinator of Victim Services
Member - First African Baptist Church, Goldsboro, NC
Michael Pope, Coordinator At-Risk Youth Ministries
Associate Minister - Oak City Baptist Church, Raleigh, NC
Wavey B. Williams, Coordinator of At-Risk Youth Ministries
Youth Pastor - A.R.M.Y. of CHRIST Ministry, Gastonia, NC



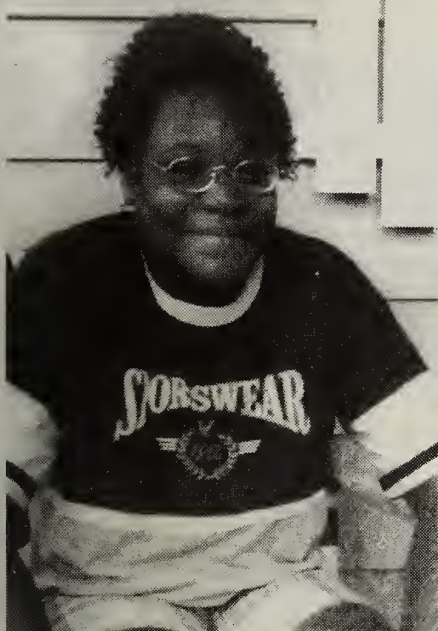
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SHANAE

Birthday: September 29, 1988

Introducing Shanae and Terika...

Shanae and Terika have two totally different personalities, but they are very close and protective of one another. Shanae is generally quiet while Terika is more out-

going, but both girls enjoy attending church and related activities.

A Closer Look at Shanae...

Shanae will tell you right up front that she loves to sing and plans on being a professional singer someday. She enjoys working with children and listening to music, but she enjoys reading so much that she often has to be persuaded to do something else. Shanae recently attended a summer camp for theater arts and has shown a strong interest in pursuing that. She is a good conversationalist and can be very entertaining with her perceptions. According to her caseworker, Shanae has a wonderful, dry sense of humor. She attends regular classes at school, but she requires a good deal of motivation to complete her schoolwork. She recently began participating in an after school math program to help her raise her grade in that subject. Shanae also attends counseling to help her prepare for the transition to adoption. Through the patience and continued display of being the parents, Shanae's foster family has made it possible for her to be a child, rather than the caretaker.



TERIKA

Birthday: August 8, 1989

A Closer Look at Terika...

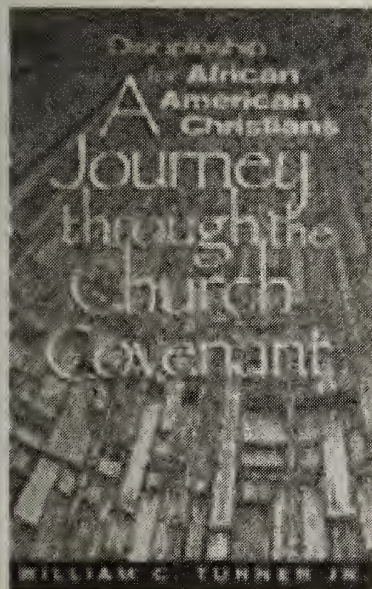
Terika is an outgoing, talkative girl with a pleasant and positive disposition. She has been on her middle school's cheerleading squad and loves it. She also enjoys run-

ning track. Like her sister, Terika has a good voice, too, and likes to sing. Like many teens, she likes to shop, wear nice clothes and talk about boys. Terika is a good student in school with grades of mostly A's and B's, but she sometimes needs to be reminded when it is time to study and when it is time to be social. Motivation for keeping up her schoolwork is having activities taken away.

A Family for Shanae and Terika...

Shanae and Terika have brothers with whom they need to stay in touch, at least by telephone, but preferably in person. They need a family that will be the parents and insist and allow Shanae and Terika to be the children. A family that has experience with teenagers would be ideal. Both girls could use a good female role model to help them improve their social skills and lead them into adulthood with confidence. (NC#011-332) (NC#011-331)

For more information on these children or adoption in general, please call the NC Kids Adoption and Foster Care toll-free Hotline at 1-877-NCKIDS-1 (1-877-625-4371)



DISCIPLESHIP FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN CHRISTIANS: A JOURNEY THROUGH THE CHURCH COVENANT

TURNER JR, WILLIAM C. \$12.00

These discipleship studies take one of the most visible documents in black Baptist churches as an occasion to reflect on the meaning of the Christian walk for today's believers. An ideal resource for new church members or for others who want to understand more about the nature of the faith they are proclaiming, this thorough discipleship resource ends each chapter with a summary of key points, as well as questions for reflection intended to help readers understand and apply the lessons

found in the chapter. William Turner uses the Church Covenant, a short statement of faith that many African American Baptists have committed to memory, as a vehicle for teaching the Baptist faith, with special attention paid to how the Covenant is grounded in the person, work, and experience of the Holy Spirit. Each chapter is based on a phrase from the Covenant itself and explores the Scriptural foundations for the phrase and the belief expressed in it. Discipleship for African American Christians is ideal for personal or small-group study, as well as for Christian education and Sunday school settings.

Available at www.judsonpress.com

Martin Luther King, Jr. Banquet Highlights



L-R: Dr. Everett, Dr. Logan, Rev. Avery, Deputy Secretary Alfonzo Jackson, Dr. Bullock, Dr. Lynch, Dr. Grant



Martin Luther King, Jr. Banquet Highlights



Rev. Avery, Dr. Fuller, Dr. Lynch



L-R: Dr. Everett, Mr. Brad Thompson



Rev. Avery, Dr. Griffey, Dr. Lynch



Rev. Avery, Rev. Leach, Dr. Lynch



Children Are a Gift From the Lord

By Earl Horton

GBSC Adoption and Foster Care
Director of Public Relations

In **Psalms 127:3** states "**Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from him.**" Indeed children are special gifts from the Lord. They are blessed



Earl Horton

with special talents and are so unique in this world. This Psalm reiterates our ministerial concern for the children in the foster care system of North Carolina. God gives us children, not as a penalty, but as a privilege. If parents have acted as good stewards of God's gift to them, children born to young parents are a great source of comfort and protection in old age. Children can be an extension of our lives, doing what we could never do, in our sunset

years.

Children in the foster care system feel they are a curse and not a gift because they are not with their birth family. Children wonder if they are the reason that their family does not want them. Because the birth families are not able of raising children the Lord may envision another family who is loving, caring, and spiritual who can receive the child as a gift from the Lord as if they are their own child. Children in the foster care system may not ever realize what their full potential could be. Being in a family where a child can be taught right from wrong, learning Christian values, and the value of an education can maximize their potential and in return the reward would be great. Moses is an example of his adoptive mother and God maximized his potential of becoming a great leader.

Moses is another adoption story in the Bible (**Exodus 2:1-10 NLT**). His mother became pregnant and gave birth to him and tried to keep him hidden for three months. When she could no longer hide him, she got a little basket made of papyrus reeds and water proofed it with

tar and pitch. She put the baby in the basket and laid it among the reeds along the edge of the Nile River. The baby's sister then stood at a distance, watching to see what would happen to him.

Soon after this, one of Pharaoh's daughters came down to bathe in the river, and her servant girls walked along the riverbank. When the princess saw the basket among the reeds, she told one of her servant girls to get it for her. As the princess opened it, she found the baby boy. His helpless cries touched her heart. "He must be one of the Hebrew children," she said.

Then the baby's sister approached the princess, "Should I go and find one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?" she asked.

"Yes do!" the princess replied. So the girl rushed home and called the baby's mother.

"Take this child home and nurse him for me," the princess told her. "I will pay you for your help." So the baby's mother took her baby home and nursed him.

Later, when he was older, the child's mother brought him back to the princess,

who adopted him as her son. The princess named him Moses, for she said, "I drew him out of the water."

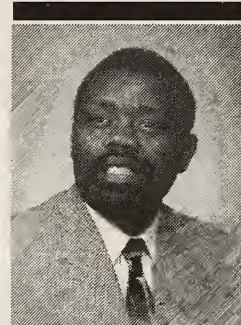
As we know in the scriptures of the Bible Moses became the leader of the Israelites and freed them from the oppression of the Egyptians.

I have several quotations for you to consider as you meditate over the life of Moses:

- How many Moses's are lingering in the foster care system?
 - How many potential mothers and fathers are standing on the riverbank able to open their homes and hearts for a child?
 - How many Christians have answered God's question as stated in Isaiah 6:8, "Also I heard a voice of the Lord saying, whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I: send me."
- My call to the GBSC's family is that you said, "Here am I. Send me." Now is the time to help our children. North Carolina currently has approximately 9,000 children in custody of county departments of Social Service of that number are African-American.

CENTRAL CHILDREN'S HOME NEWS

News From Central Children's Home



Rev. Ricky Banks

By Reverend Ricky L. Banks

For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations. Psalms 100:5. We are thankful to God for grace and mercy allowing me to report on our Central

Children's Home. The home is alive and well with the help of almighty God. Mr. Alston is on the move working very hard on the transitional classroom program, and accreditation for the home. The basketball program is up and running with some twenty teams from area churches participating in the program.

I want to encourage my friends at The Central Children's Home with this thought: God is our true Shepherd. We know it but often we lose sight of His promise to care for us. God was Israel's

Shepherd in Biblical history and He is ours today. God searched for Israel and He will search for us who recognize our need for a Provider.

It is often hard to admit we need help, especially in the society in which we live today—a society that tries to convince us that we can do it ourselves without the help of anyone and certainly not God. But I know we need Him, and everyday I know it more.

God is the supplier of all our needs, big ones and the small ones. We just have to remember to ask. No matter what the problem or concern, He already knows about it anyway, so why not do yourself a favor and ask for a little help? The True Shepherd wants to help and care for you. Prayer Thought: God help us to remember Your promises and to seek Your face first in our time of need. We praise You for Your greatness, in the name of Jesus, the Great and Good Shepherd, Amen.

The entire management and staff would like to thank you for all you have done and please remember us in the upcoming year God Bless You All.

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Sister Minnie Campbell – Financial Secretary
Sister Rosa Pope – Church Clerk
Sister Gwendolyn Tillery – Computer Tech.

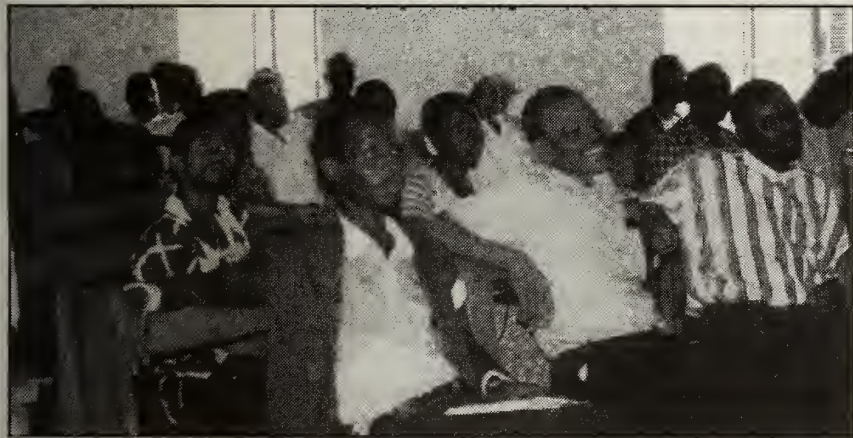
For I was and hungered, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

Matthew 25:36-37, 40

Dr. Elbert Lee, Jr. and Dr. Pearl Greyson, Humanitarians for the World Mission



Pastor Elbert Lee, Jr., being interviewed by the press, on the campus of Lott-Carey



Baptist Pastors of all Baptist Churches in Liberia attend a service preached by Rev. Dr. Elbert Lee, Jr. This service is held at the Providence Baptist Church, the oldest church in Liberia. The church was established in the year 1824



His excellence Honorable President Dr. Charles G. Taylor gaining all his thanks and appreciation to the two top executives of Holy-Holy Global Mission, Rev. Dr. Elbert Lee, Jr., Chairman and Dr. Pearl Younis-Grayson, President for the Help Holy-Holy Global Mission is giving to this country in West Africa, Monrovia-Liberia.

After the civil war, Liberia is the first independent country after slavery on the continent of Africa. Liberia helped all other countries on the continent of Africa to get their independence from Great Britain, France etc. Liberia is the background of Firestone's success with rubber and timber to America. We all in this world have benefited great from Liberia, please let us come together Christian Brothers and Sisters, let's hold hands together with Holy-Holy Global Mission Home and Abroad in giving this assistance that is badly needed to Little America in Africa Monrovia-Liberia. Everything of Liberia is pro-American.

Mark II: verse 24

Therefore I say unto you. What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them and ye shall have them.



Pastor Lee and Pastor Roullach talked about "God's Love" while assigned security guard walks behind

"HOW GREAT THOU ART"

All the leaders of every area in Liberia are thankful for Almighty Heavenly Father's Blessing.

Our warehouse is open for food, clothing, school supplies, pharmaceutical and other items for shipping to the country. Also donations will be highly appreciated with special thanks to you.

Contact: PO Box 6362
Rocky Mount, North Carolina 27802
Phone # (252) 446-9212

Rev. Dr. Elbert Lee, Jr.
Dr. Pearl Younis-Grayson

AIDS and the Church

In the spring of 2000, the State of North Carolina accepted a proposal from Shaw University Divinity School to develop a curriculum for AIDS/HIV/STD prevention from a biblical perspective. As a result, for the third year, Shaw University Divinity School has been awarded a grant to be used to that end. We are grateful to the Department of Health and Human Services and the HIV/STD Prevention and Care Branch for embracing our vision.

We are proud of the fact that Shaw University Divinity School has opened its academic doors to intentionally educate ministers from a biblical perspective regarding AIDS/HIV/STD prevention. Much gratitude is extended to the administration of Shaw University; President Talbert O. Shaw, Executive President Ernest Pickens, and Dean James T. Roberson, Jr. for their support in the development of this project.

As at theological institution, we believe that it is imperative for us to step up to the challenge and join forces with federal, state, and local agencies to help eradicate this staggering epidemic which has taken the lives of so many of God's people, particularly African Americans. Statistical data continues to be a spiritual challenge because some churches are yet

to embrace the notion of prevention through education in the local congregation.

As an institution founded to train pastors, ministers, Christian educators and others who labor for the cause of Christ, it is our responsibility to accept the challenge issued by a desperate culture to aid in the prevention of this silent killer from a biblical perspective. You, the churches of the General Baptist State Convention, are invited to partner with us in accepting the mandate from God to make a difference for the healing of the land.

The PETRA Model, A Faith-Based Curriculum: A Very Present Help in the Time of Trouble, is a biblically-based training instrument. PETRA is the acronym for Prevention, Education, Research, and Awareness, all of which are addressed in the model. This multidiscipline curriculum includes five areas of focus:

- "Health and Wholeness in the Old Testament"
- "STD/HIV Prevention and the Witness of the New Testament"
- "Theology, the Church, and AIDS"
- "Caring for the Black Family, Church, and Community"
- "Life in the Village: Prevention and

Reconciliation"

The PETRA Model is designed for church leaders, Christian educators, other faith-based leaders, and laity who desire to address the issue of HIV/AIDS/STD prevention from a biblical perspective.

This curriculum will be available by March 1, 2003 from Shaw University Divinity School. For further information you may contact Dr. Linda Bryan, Assistant Dean, at (919) 546-8577 or 546-8570.

Support Our Colleges – Now!

By Earl G. Graves, Sr.
Morgan State University, '57

(Reprinted from *Black Enterprise*, January 2003 Issue)

Four years ago, we introduced the **BLACK ENTERPRISE**/Daystar Research list of the Top 50 Colleges for African Americans because long-term success is not only about going to college but also about attending the *right* college. Not surprisingly, historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) continue to hold their own against other institutions of higher learning when it comes to educating African Americans. In fact, led by Atlanta's Morehouse College, HBCUs hold seven of the top 10 positions on this year's Top 50 list. It's not a coincidence that these schools have been among the most successful in raising money and attracting top faculty and students.

Yet, a stone's throw from Morehouse is the other half of the HBCU story. Morris Brown College, a fellow member of the Atlanta University Center, is struggling to survive. After two decades of financial instability, Morris Brown faces more than \$15 million in debt (including more than \$5 million in federal financial aid for students not enrolled at the school). Morris Brown is one of six HBCUs that have been threatened with loss of accreditation. And about a dozen other black schools have closed over the past 25 years. What plagues these schools – inadequate budgets, antiquated and underfinanced facilities, high turnover among faculty and administrators – are but symptoms of a larger problem. Too many African Americans, including many alumni, are not personally committed to the financial support of our HBCUs. These schools are not failing us – in fact, they remain dedicated to their mission of educating African

Americans, despite the lack of support. We are failing them. I am urging you to take action to help change this.

If you are a graduate of an HBCU, write a check to your alma mater *today*. Furthermore, commit to making a contribution at least annually, and urge your fellow alums to do the same. If you have not had the good fortune of attending a historically black college, then make a donation to any of the nation's 105 HBCUs, perhaps giving preference to those, such as Morris Brown, that are most in need of financial support. Remember that the doors of predominantly white universities were opened to us thanks in large measure to the efforts of HBCU graduates such as the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (Morehouse College, '48) and Thurgood Marshall (Lincoln University, Pennsylvania, '30, Howard University Law, '33). And speaking of Marshall, all of us, no matter where we attended college (and even if we didn't, at all), should contribute to the Thurgood Marshall Scholarship Fund (www.thurgoodmarshallfund.org), as well as the United Negro College Fund (www.uncf.org).

The greatness of Morehouse and the other HBCUs on our Top 50 list will be diminished if we allow Morris Brown and other struggling black colleges to perish. There's more to supporting our alma maters than showing up for homecoming festivities and sporting a complete collection of paraphernalia boasting the school colors. More than any previous generation of African Americans, we have the means to ensure the health and vitality of all of our HBCUs. We have only to display the will. Write a check, make a pledge, organize a fund-raiser, but give generously, consistently, and repeatedly. And do it *today*.

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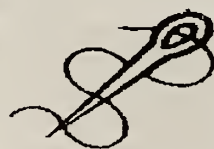
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30th Annual James Z. Alexander/Albert W. Pegues Ministers' Conference

Once again we are calling for Christian ministers to come together for a time of worship, study, and Christian growth. We thank God that each year attendance and participation in this great conference have continued to increase. Each year this Ministers' Conference proves to be greater and greater. So, come expecting a glorious time in the Lord.

We are sending out a special call to Christians to be praying for this great conference. During the conference we will have early Morning Prayer starting each day at 8:00 A.M. Conference attendees should come with high expectations for this Holy Ghost-filled conference. They should come with worship attitudes of *adoration* to our wonderful Lord, *gratitude* for all that He has done and is going to do in the days ahead; *confession* for our failures, but not to dwell on them; *submission* to His Will, *dependence* upon His power, and a greater *commitment* to our calling to preach the Gospel.

On Monday, registration will start at 8:00 A.M. and will be open for the remainder of the conference. At 1:00 P.M. on Monday, we will have two workshops: Dr. Moses Goldmon will conduct a Clergy and Community Health workshop. This workshop will address health concerns that affect clergy in the performance of their calling, and the community that is affected by the clergy. This special workshop is designed for ministers, but is open to any of the registered conference participants. Dr. J. T. Roberson, Dean of the Divinity School, will conduct a workshop in Church and Community

Development. Focus will be on the benefits and steps of creating a 501c3 organization. This workshop, too, will be open to ministers and registered conference participants. The above workshops will be offered from 2:00-4:30 P.M. on March 17, 2003 **only**. Certificates of participation will be given at the end of these workshops.

Preaching clinics will be led at various times throughout the conference. Certifications will also be distributed at the end of each workshop. Late-night worship will also be a part of this conference.

Some of the Conference Presenters

Bishop Kenneth Ulmer, Pastor of Faith Central Bible Church, Los Angeles, CA
The Rev. Dr. Gregory Moss, St. Paul Baptist Church, Charlotte, NC
The Rev. Dr. Thomas J. Boyd, Pastor, Salem Missionary Baptist Church, Brooklyn, NY
The Rev. Dr. H. C. Miller, Tupper Memorial Baptist Church, Raleigh, NC
The Rev. Dr. Charles T. Bullock, Martin St. Baptist Church, Raleigh, NC
The Rev. Anthonette Wright, Gethsemane Baptist Church, Louisburg, NC
The Rev. Evelyn Teasley, Projects Consultant, SUDS
The Rev. Dr. James Arnette, Former Dean & Director of Church Relations, SUDS
The Rev. Dr. Reginald Van Stephens, Adjunct Professor of Homiletics, SUDS
The Rev. Dr. Rudolph Tripp, Director of Continuing Education, SUDS
The Rev. Dr. J. T. Roberson, Jr., Dean, SUDS

30TH ANNUAL JAMES Z. ALEXANDER/ALBERT W. PEGUES MINISTERS' CONFERENCE

"The Church Positively Influencing the Community"
Matthew 28:19-20

March 17-19, 2003
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Dr. James T. Roberson, Jr., Dean of the Divinity School
Dr. Rudolph Tripp, Director of Continuing Education

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Faith Central Bible Church
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Rev. Dr. Thomas J. Boyd,
Pastor, Salem Missionary Baptist Church
Brooklyn, NY
Conference Lecturer

Rev. Anthonette Wright
Gethsemane Baptist Church

Louisburg, NC
Alumni Preacher

Rev. Dr. H.C. Miller
Tupper Memorial Baptist Church
Raleigh, NC
Late Night Preacher

Rev. Dr. Greg Moss
St. Paul Baptist Church
Charlotte, NC
Late Night Preacher

Registration Form

The 30th Annual James Z. Alexander/Albert W. Pegues School Ministers' Conference

Conference Registration

Please complete this Registration Form and MAIL to Shaw University Divinity School, 118 East South Street, Raleigh, N.C. 27601 by March 3, 2003 with your registration fee.

Name _____ Title _____

Home Address _____

Phone/Extension _____

E-Mail Address for acknowledgement of registration _____

Church Affiliation and Pastor _____

Quantity/Unit	Price	Total
_____ Early Registration Fee*	\$85.00	_____
_____ Continuing Ed. Unit**	\$25.00	_____
_____ Seminary Student***	\$45.00	_____
_____ Alumni Luncheon	\$15.00	_____

CONFERENCE FEES SUBTOTAL _____

Early Registration Deadline: March 3, 2003

*Registrations postmarked after March 3, 2003 will be processed as on-site registration and will require additional money to register. On-site Fee: Registration (\$100.00) Seminary Students (\$50.00) **Form required for Cont. Ed. Units; pickup at registration check-in. ***Proof of enrollment required for all seminary students.

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Payment Method (Please Select One):

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Resolve to Pay Off Holiday Debts This New Year

By Attorney General Roy Cooper

It's the time of year when holiday celebrations give way to New Year's resolutions. This New Year, resolve to get out of debt and stay that way. Here are some tips to help you get your new year off to the right start by digging your way out from under that mountain of post-holiday bills.

It is easy to overspend during the holiday season, but you can begin 2003 by taking charge of your financial situation. Start by figuring out exactly what you owe to creditors. Gather all of your monthly statements and record your balances along with information about when payments are due. If you are overextended, stop using your credit cards and pay for your purchases with cash or check instead to keep from piling on more debt.

If you owe more than you can afford to pay, contact your creditors to discuss your options for repayment. Most companies are willing to set up special arrangements to help. However, be realistic about how quickly you'll be able to pay back what you owe before you agree to a payment plan.

If you are unable to create a workable budget and stick to it or you can't work out a repayment plan, you may want to consider contacting a credit counseling service. Your creditors may be willing to accept reduced payments if you enter a debt repayment plan with a reputable organization. In these plans, you deposit money each month with the credit counseling service. Your deposits are used to pay your creditors according to a payment schedule developed by the counselor and your creditors.

Turning to an organization that offers help in digging out of debt is a reasonable solution when your bills become unmanageable, but be cautious. You should not have to pay fees for debt management plans, so avoid any organization that requires you to pay for these services. Find a non-profit consumer credit coun-

seling service in your community with a counselor who will take the time to tailor a plan to fit your personal needs. Steer clear of services that don't offer personal credit counseling or are only available by phone.

You can check to see if a counseling service is accredited by contacting the National Foundation for Credit Counseling at 1-800-388-2227 or via their website at www.nfcc.org. My Consumer Protection office at (919) 716-6000 or the Better Business Bureau may also be able to help.

Always avoid credit repair clinics that promise to fix credit reports for a fee. Under North Carolina law, it is illegal to charge up-front fees for credit repair services. These scams cheat consumers out of hundreds of dollars in fees and then do nothing to improve their credit. Many of these rackets will simply take your money and vanish.

Once you've taken steps to get your financial house in order, protect your credit by checking your credit report regularly. Make sure that all of your account information is accurate and up-to-date. You can obtain copies of your credit report from the three major credit bureaus:

Equifax (800-997-2493 or equifax.com)
Experian (888-397-3742 or experian.com)
Trans Union (800-916-8800 or tuc.com).

And here's another resolution to consider: when you shop in the year ahead, buy only what you can afford. If you spend within your means next holiday season, you can start 2004 debt-free.

Attorney General Roy Cooper and his staff work from January through December to help North Carolinians make smart shopping choices and avoid scams. We are here to be of service when you need us, but through education efforts like these columns we hope to help consumers avoid problems from the start.

National Council of Churches Ag Missions Plans Delegation to Assemblies in Brazil

Submitted by Carol J. Smith
Managing Editor

January 14, 2003, New York City – Agricultural Missions, Inc. – a U.S. ecumenical ministry of accompaniment with



Carol Smith

rural peoples' movements and farmers' organizations – is organizing and coordinating a 16-person 'U. S. Agrarian Delegation' to the Via Campesina Assembly (Jan. 21-23, 2003) and the 3rd World Social Forum (Jan 23-28, 2003), both to be held in Porto Alegre, Brazil.

Agricultural Missions' Latin America liaison and agriculturist Stephen Bartlett will be accompanying the delegation and helping to integrate a wide range of organizational representatives of small farmers, farm workers and urban youth agriculturists into the growing international coalition known as Via Campesina and in the dynamic and massive World Social Forum (WSF), with up to 100,000 people expected to attend.

U.S. organizations represented in this delegation include the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (involved in Taco Bell boycott), CITA (a farm worker soli-

darity organization in New York State), the Food Project of Boston, Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC), the Women, Food and Agriculture network of Iowa, the Community Farm Alliance of Kentucky, Family Farm Defenders, the Northeast Organic Farmers Association (NOFA), PCUN (a farm worker organization in Oregon) and the Federation of Southern Cooperatives (an African American farmer advocacy organization), joining together with the National Family Farm Coalition which was the only U.S. farmer organization previously involved in Via Campesina.

Issues to be discussed and actions planned for in Brazil include: exclusion of agriculture from international 'free' trade agreements and World Trade Organization rules, a moratorium on the use of patented GMO seeds in agriculture, and promotion of an alternative, environmentally sound, farmer controlled agricultural production and marketing model based on the primacy of local markets, ecological sustainability, democratic process, and economic justice and solidarity.

Additional funding for delegate air tickets to Brazil came from Oxfam America, board members of Agricultural Missions, and the Presbyterian Church USA Hunger Program. For more information, please contact Stephen Bartlett, Stephen@nccusa.org. (Tel: 502-894-9308 or 212-870-2553).

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J.J. JOHNSON CAMP

J.J. JOHNSON BAPTIST ASSEMBLY INFORMATION

The Site:

The J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly is a tract of land comprising seventy-five (75) or more acres, much of which is covered with a mixture of North Carolina Pine, red and white oak trees. The location of the Baptist Assembly is on more than 75 rolling acres in Laurel Hill, North Carolina in Scotland County.

In 1967, approximately two-thirds of the acreage was donated by Dr. and Mrs. Joy J. Johnson and their daughter, Deborah (Mrs. Alexander Killiens). Additional acres were purchased by the Woman's Convention and General Baptist State Convention.

Our Purpose:

The purpose of the J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly in Laurel Hill is to provide a setting that is Christian in its atmosphere and is conducive to learning, worship, and meeting the needs of all individuals whom we serve. It seeks to provide opportunities for everyone to learn habits of good citizenship, and it provides at the same time opportunities to reach a maximum potential for Christian fellowship and fun experiences through democratic ideals and living.

The facility exists for the exclusive use by religious groups and/or organizations with similar aims regardless of ethnic origin.

Meeting Facilities:

At the J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly, there are various meeting facilities available. Listed below are the seating capacity (theater style) and lodging:

- ♦ Rowan Association Chapel Seating Capacity: 300-400
- ♦ Horne Lodge Seating Capacity: 20-25, Sleeps 12
- ♦ Alston Lodge Seating Capacity: 100, Sleeps 64
- ♦ Lumber Bridge Association Lodge Seating Capacity: 100, Sleeps 64
- ♦ Brown Assembly Dining Hall Seating Capacity: 200 (Cafeteria Style)

Individuals should bring their own linen, blankets, soap and other toiletries for the lodging facilities.

"And gathered them out of the lands, from the east, and from the west, from the north, and from the south." Psalm 107:3

SPECIAL THANKS

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DOMESTIC VIOLENCE Workshop Luncheon

*"HOW CAN THE CHURCH
RESPOND TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE"*

On Saturday, March, 2003

the Conventional Family invites

all Ministers, Minister's Wives, Laymen, Missionaries
and Christian Friends to our first

Domestic Violence Workshop Luncheon

Ms. Marche Clarke, from North Carolina Coalition Against
Domestic Violence will conduct the workshop.

Your presence is greatly appreciated!

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Place: J.J. Johnson Baptist Assembly, Laurel Hill, N.C.

For information: (910) 462-2444

*Yours in Christ,
Sandra D. McCallum Cor.*

Current Annual Events

During the course of the year, the Conventional Family sponsors different ministries at the J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly. Among these are the following:

- ♦ Vacation Bible School (GBSC) – March
- ♦ Ministers' Wives Retreat (WBSC) – May
- ♦ Laymen's League Mini-Skills Retreat (GBSC) – May
- ♦ Leadership Training Conference (GBSC) – June
- ♦ Youth Bible Camp (WBSC) – June
- ♦ Laymen's League Boy's Summer Retreat (GBSC) – July
- ♦ Laymen's League Scouting Jamboree (GBSC) – August
- ♦ Laymen's League Men's Retreat (GBSC) – September
- ♦ North Carolina Branch of the 9th and 10th Calvary (Buffalo Soldiers) – October
- ♦ Usher's Retreat/Workshop (GBSC) – November
- ♦ Laymen's League Planning Session – December

The campus is available year round for meetings, weddings, banquets, family reunions, and other activities. Contact Eric Harris for the policies and procedures regarding each type of event.

**Send Applications & Funds to:
General Baptist State Convention
J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly
603 S. Wilmington Street
Raleigh, NC 27601**

(Make checks payable to J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly)

Sources: "1974" Brochure and the J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly Guide And Handbook (1985).

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WORKSHOP

*"HOW CAN THE CHURCH RESPOND TO
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE"*

• Registration Form •

March 29, 2003 • 9:00 a.m.

J. J. JOHNSON BAPTIST ASSEMBLY

Church Name _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Attendee(s) _____

Please send registration form to:
Eric Harris, Acting Superintendent
P.O. Box 365
Laurel Hill, NC 28351
910-462-2444 • 1-800-639-4272

CLASSIFIEDS

(PLEASE CONTACT CHURCHES FOR SPECIFIC QUALIFICATIONS SOME REQUIRE 3 OR MORE YEARS PASTORAL EXPERIENCE, SEMINARY TRAINING, MISSIONARY BAPTIST ORDINATION, MUSICAL SKILLS) (FOR SPECIFIC CHURCH QUALIFICATIONS CONTACT THE PULPIT COMMITTEE)

PASTORS

MT. BRIGHT MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH – Hillsborough, NC: seeking a pastor to serve as its spiritual leader, teacher, counselor and administrator. Mt. Bright Missionary Baptist Church, organized in 1866, is located at 211 W. Union Street, Hillsborough, North Carolina. The purpose of the church is to provide Christian worship, to train, to teach and to bring its members into a closer fellowship with God through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Our mission is to know Christ, to make Christ known, be a community of Christian People, bring about restoration of all people to unity with God and each other in Christ, and to do all that we do so that Jesus Christ is first in our lives, so that he might become first in the lives of others. We have services every Sunday. Mt. Bright Baptist Church has approximately two hundred (200) members. Our ministries include the following: Pastoral, Deacons and Deaconess, Trustees, Missionary, Christian Education, Music, and

Outreach. Finalists for the position must meet the following qualifications:

- Be willing to follow Baptist Doctrine and Policies.
- Possess good moral and ethical conduct, living by Tim 3:1-5.
- Be Divinely called and ordained.
- Have the ability to preach and teach God's word.
- Hold, be eligible to hold, or working toward a theological degree.
- Pastoral experience preferred.
- Possess good interpersonal relationship skills required for communicating, planning and implementing a vision for spiritual, physical and financial growth of the church.
- Have the skills required to work with all age groups with special emphasis on the youth.
- Be community oriented.
- Be willing to be evaluated on an annual basis.
- Be willing to live in proximity of the church.

Interested candidates should submit a letter of interest and resume to: Dr. Millicent C. Rainey, Chairperson, Pastoral Search Committee, to: Mount Bright Missionary Baptist Church, 211 West Union Street, Hillsborough, NC 27278. Candidates selected for interview will be sent a formal application. Closing date: March 14, 2003.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH – Harmony, NC: seeks a pastor for a local congregation to serve as its spiritual leader, administrator, teacher and counselor. *The following list has the*

desired characteristics: must be saved, born-again Christian; must be a licensed, ordained Baptist minister; must have the skills required for planning and implementing a vision for spiritual, physical and financial growth of the church; must possess ability to teach, train and coach church officers, auxiliary leaders and membership; must have good administrative skills which include the ability to articulate, negotiate and facilitate effectively with a diverse community including educational, business and civic communities; evidence of community awareness and involvement; must have knowledge of Baptist doctrine, church policies and parliamentary procedures; training from a seminary or theological institution is preferred; prior experience as a pastor is preferred. Applicants must provide a copy of certificates of license and ordination and proof of any training. The board will accept applications until the position is filled. *Submit a resume, a list of references and copies of certifications to: Deacon Claude Steele/CONFIDENTIAL, First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 407, Harmony, NC 28634.*

MILL NECK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH – Como, NC: currently accepting applications for a Pastor with strong Missionary Baptist roots. We are affiliated with the West Roanoke Missionary Baptist Association and the General Baptist State convention. *Interested applicants should provide a resume to: Carolyn M. Farrow, Secretary, Pastor Search Committee, Mill Neck Missionary*

Baptist Church, P.O. Box 68, Mill Neck Rd., Como, NC 27818.

HILL STREET BAPTIST CHURCH – Asheville, NC: accepting applications for a spirit-filled leader. Our Pastor, Dr. Nilous M. Avery, with 51 years of continued, dedicated service, recently retired. The congregation of the Hill Street Baptist Church, Asheville, NC is now ready to receive resumes. We pray for applicants who:

- are born again
- are divinely called and ordained (*1 Timothy 3:1-7*)
- are spiritually mature
- are gifted in preaching and teaching the Word of God to all ages
- have a vision for the future of the church
- are experienced in Christian counseling, mediation and administration
- have a college degree and seminary training but will consider a combination of education and experience.

Titus 1:9 says: "holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both the exhort and to convince the gainsayers." It is important to have a leader who can effectively preach the Word of God, but it is even more important to have one who lives out God's Word and is an example for others to follow.

Mail resumes & serious inquiries to: Pastor Search Team, Hill Street Baptist Church, P.O. Box 327, Asheville, NC 28802. Deadline for resumes is March 15, 2003. "The Mission of the Hill Street Baptist Church through the power of God's grace, is to witness, to serve and to proclaim the gospel of

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FIRST MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH PASTOR NEEDED

The Pastoral Search Committee of the First Missionary Baptist Church in Smithfield, N.C., is seeking a pastor. It is currently accepting resumes from interested Licensed Ordained Baptist Ministers.

QUALIFICATIONS:

1. Must be a Spiritual Baptist Minister
 - a. Ordained Baptist Minister with a strong orientation in Baptist beliefs and doctrines
 - b. A good role model of moral and ethical conduct
2. Must have pastoral experience in the Baptist church
3. Graduate of a university and divinity school preferred
4. Church, family and community oriented with the ability and willingness to teach Bible Study and Baptist Doctrine
5. Strong leadership with an outlook for the future growth and development of the church

The closing date for submitting a resume is January 31, 2003.

Please send inquiries and resumes to:

Dr. Phyllis Ethridge, Chairperson of Pastoral Search Committee
101 Lake Ridge Drive, Smithfield, NC 27577

CLASSIFIEDS

Jesus Christ to all people."

BUNCOMBE BAPTIST CHURCH

– Lexington, NC: accepting resumes from interested licensed ordained Missionary Baptist ministers.

Qualifications:

- Born again Christian
- Concerned with spiritual and intellectual growth of the church
- Ability to preach and teach God's Word
- Must be willing to teach and follow the Baptist Doctrines, policies and practices
- Ability to work with all age groups in the church
- Ability to carry out administrative, leadership and counseling duties
- Work cooperatively with church officials
- Family and community oriented
- Teach Bible Study and attend Sunday School and prayer meetings
- Theological and/or Seminary training preferred
- Good communications skills
- Must be a good role model of moral and ethical conduct

Please send resumes and inquiries to: Buncombe Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1533, Lexington, NC 27293.

GUILDFIELD M.B. CHURCH

New Bern, NC: currently accepting applications for a Pastor. Guildfield M.B. Church is an established church with a rich heritage in Eastern North Carolina. It is a growing congregation with active ministries focusing on the youth, senior citizens, the musical department, and Christian Education activities. Regular worship services are held every Sunday morning at 11:00 a.m. The church has membership in the Old Eastern Missionary Baptist Association.

PASTORAL DUTIES

- Serve as Senior Pastor and preach the Gospel
- Provide insight for spiritual growth of the church and outreach efforts
- Plan and implement Christian education opportunities for the membership
- Serve as an ex-officio member of all church auxiliaries
- Provide leadership to associate ministers affiliated with the church

QUALIFICATIONS

- Must be saved and have a personal relationship with the Lord
- Must be ordained to preach and be able to serve as an administrator of a local congregation
- Must possess interpersonal skills that facilitate interaction with church mem-

bers and various community resources

- Must possess leadership abilities
- Must have personal stamina and enthusiasm to encourage the spiritual growth of the congregation
- Must have at least two years of experience in church leadership in some capacity and some Bible school training

Resumes will be accepted until the position is filled. To apply, send resume to the attention of Mrs. Vesta Mullins, Chairperson of the Pastoral Search Committee, at the church's address. For more information call Rev. Carolyn Squires, Committee Co-Chairperson at 252-638-4726.

836 Green Street

P.O. Box 12881

New Bern, NC 28560

252-633-2388

PHILLIPS CHAPEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

– Winston-Salem, NC: Dr. Stephen Tyrone Thornton was called to Phillips Chapel Missionary Baptist Church in April, 2002. He was called home to be with the Lord October 21, 2002. May

God rest his soul! Phillips Chapel Missionary Baptist Church in Winston-Salem, NC, is seeking a senior pastor, spiritual leader, counselor and administrator. Interested persons should submit a letter of interest and a resume no later than January 15, 2003.

The successful candidate will have the following qualifications:

- Must be born-again, spirit filled, divinely called minister with strong family and community values
- Must possess the willingness to follow the By-Laws governing the church
- Must have knowledge of Baptist doctrines, church policies and procedures and be willing to follow such
- Must be a licensed, ordained Baptist minister
- Must have demonstrated the ability to perform the duties of a Senior Pastor
- Must have a minimum of a Bachelor's degree in Religion, Religious Studies, Theology, or Divinity from an accredited college, university, or divinity school
- Must be willing to work with all age groups with particular interest in the spiritual growth and development of

PULPIT VACANCY NEW LIGHT MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH HALLSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA

NEW LIGHT MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH IS NOW ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR A PASTOR. OUR WORSHIP SERVICES ARE EACH SUNDAY OF THE MONTH.

QUALIFICATIONS:

Must be a licensed ordained Missionary Baptist Minister.

- Full of Holy Ghost. Led by the Spirit of God in all matters.
- Full of wisdom, knowledge and understand the office of Pastor and performs it according to the scriptures and the needs of the church.
- Must be Association minded.
- Prefer having experience as a Pastor.
- The husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behavior.
- One that rules his own house, having a good report.
- Knows the doctrine of a Missionary Baptist Church
- Must attend meetings of different auxiliaries in the church to become familiar with the organizations, whenever possible.
- Must visit the sick and shut-in when possible.
- Must attempt to become involved with the various programs that the church participates in outside the home church calendar.

Send resumes and inquiries to:

Deacon Kenneth Bracey
1025 Red Bug Rd.
Hallsboro, North Carolina 28442
910-646-4467



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- Must be able to develop and share a vision for the future growth and development of the church

- Must visit and commune with sick, shut-in and bereaved families

All applicants must provide the following information:

- Copy of college degree(s), certificates of license and ordination
- Proof of completion of ALL accredited theological training
- Name, address and telephone number of (4) personal and professional references with no more than (2) coming from other ministers

All materials should be forwarded to:

Dr. Ernie Wade

Chairman, Pulpit Committee

Phillips Chapel Missionary Baptist Church

132 N. Glenn Avenue, Winston-Salem, NC 27105

MORRIS STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

— Charleston, SC: seeks to fill the position of Assistant Pastor for the Church. The applicant must be of irreproachable Christian character and possess leadership skills. Applicants must have a Bachelor of Arts degree and additional theological studies. Preference will be given to applicants with prior experience as a pastor or assistant pastor in a Baptist Church. The applicant will be required to demonstrate competency in teaching and preaching and to perform other functions related to the pastorate. Interested applicants should submit a

letter of application with resume, references and credentials on or before January 15, 2003 to:

Morris Street Baptist Church

Attention: Search Committee

Irving Robinson, Vice-Chairman

25 Morris Street

Charleston, SC 29403

METROPOLITAN BAPTIST CHURCH

— Rocky Mount, NC: currently accepting resumes from ministers interested in serving as Pastor of the church. Metropolitan Baptist Church was founded in May 1965 and recently celebrated its 37th anniversary.

The congregation has only had 3 pastors in its history, with the Pastor Emeritus serving for 25 years prior to retiring. The most recent pastor served for five years. The church has a membership of 500 members.

Metropolitan Baptist Church is located in Rocky Mount, North Carolina, which is located 45 miles east of Raleigh, North Carolina. Rocky Mount is considered a regional center for eastern North Carolina with a population of 58,000. The racial makeup is 57 percent African-American.

The congregation is seeking an ordained missionary Baptist minister with 5 to 10 years experience as a senior pastor or associate pastor. The educational background of the candidate should include an undergraduate degree in theology or related area of study, however, a Masters of Divinity is preferred. Successful candidates should possess ability to work with all

age groups and auxiliaries in the church, possess excellent communication skills, and possess the skills and ability to develop and strengthen the various internal ministries of the church and community outreach programs. Pastor's salaries and benefits are negotiable.

The closing date for submitting a resume is January 15, 2003.

Please send inquiries and resumes to: Pastor Search Committee, Metropolitan Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1952, Rocky Mount, NC 27801.

OLIVE BRANCH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

— Elizabeth City, NC: currently accepting applications for a Pastor. Interested applicants should provide a resume.

Send information to:

The Pulpit Committee

Brother Elonza Joyner, Chairperson

106 Graves Avenue

Elizabeth City, NC 27909

elonzajoybner@hotmail.com

OAKEY GROVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

— Clayton, NC: currently accepting applications for a Pastor with strong Missionary Baptist roots. We are affiliated with the Johnston District Missionary Baptist Association and the General Baptist State Convention. Interested applicants

should provide the following:

1. A resume

2. Personal references

Send information to:

Oakey Grove Baptist Church

Pulpit Search Committee

Deacon Loomis Hodges, Chairperson

PO Box 2435

Smithfield, NC 27577

MOUNT CARMEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

— Elizabeth City, NC: currently accepting applications for a Pastor. The church is located in Hertford County. Interested applicants should provide the following:

1. A Resume

2. A copy of religious credentials: License/Ordination

3. Two personal references (no family references)

Send information to:

Mount Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church

Pastor Search Committee

ATTN: Deacon Eugene White

815 Swains Mill Road

Harrellsville, NC 27942

UNION GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

Warrenton, NC: currently accepting applications for a Pastor. Interested applicants should provide the following:

ST. JAMES MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

of Henderson, NC, is seeking a pastor with strong Missionary Baptist roots.

Interested applicants should provide the following:

1. A resume or letter of interest

2. A copy of religious credentials: License/Ordination

3. Three personal references (no family references)

Send information to:

St. James Missionary Baptist Church

The Pulpit Committee

ATTN: Deacon John D. Ellis

Post Office Box 2205

Henderson, North Carolina 27536

Pulpit Vacancy

Bazzel Creek Missionary Baptist Church Fuquay-Varina, North Carolina

Bazzel Creek Missionary Baptist Church is seeking a pastor to serve as a spiritual leader, teacher, and counselor for its congregation. The following qualifications must be met for this position:

- Ordained, born-again licensed Missionary Baptist minister
- Good moral values - family oriented
- Trained in Missionary Baptist Doctrine
- Must be a compromiser
- Must be experienced (3-5 years as a Pastor or an Associate)
- BA Degree from an accredited institution of higher learning/seminary
- Must be self-sufficient/employed
- Leadership, organizational, administrative, and communications skills/good public relation skills/community/church
- Willingness to work with the community, be affiliated with state, local, and national Baptist Conventions and Associations
- Must be able to communicate with people of all ages.

Send resumes and inquiries to: Bazzel Creek Missionary Baptist Church, Pastoral Search Committee, Attn: Deacon John R. Greene, P.O. Box 1295, Fuquay-Varina, NC 27526.

Resume deadline is February 28, 2003

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2024 Mare's Way, Greenville, NC 27858

e-mail: jmgmtc@greenville.com

A Resume
Send information to:
Brother Alonza Jones, Board Chairman
Pastor Search Committee
Route 2, Box 128
Norlina, NC 27563

FIRST MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH Thomasville, NC: currently accepting applications for a Pastor with strong Missionary Baptist roots. We are affiliated with the Johnston District Missionary Baptist Association and the General Baptist State Convention, interested applicants should provide a resume. Send information to:
Tanya M. Autry, Chairperson
Pastor Search Committee
First Missionary Baptist Church
103 Church Street
Thomasville, NC 27360

EBENEZER BAPTIST CHURCH – Newburgh, NY: currently accepting applications for Senior Pastor with strong Baptist roots. The Committee will provide each candidate with an application packet.
Send request to:
Ebenezer Baptist Church
ATTN: Deacon Milton
Buxton/Confidential
PO Box 248
Newburgh, NY 12551-0248

SHADY GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH – East Spencer, NC: currently accepting applications for a Pastor with strong Missionary Baptist roots. Interested applicants should provide the following:
1. A resume

2. at least four references: (2) business (2) personal
3. A copy of religious credentials: License/Ordination
Send information to:
Shady Grove Baptist Church
ATTN: Clarence A. Jones, Chairperson
PO Box 447
East Spencer, NC 28039

EASTERN STAR MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH – Tarboro, NC: seeking a pastor.
•He must be experienced
•Well seasoned
•He must live by the word of God
•Willing to teach Sunday school and bible study class
•Must be between the age of 25-55
Please submit resume to:
Pulpit Committee
Eastern Star Missionary Baptist Church
Post Office Box 1677
Tarboro, North Carolina 27886

SECOND CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH, 114 NELSON AVENUE, CHARLOTTE, NC 28216
Second Calvary Baptist Church is seeking a full time pastor to serve as spiritual leader, teacher and counselor for her congregation. Finalist for this position must meet the following qualifications:
• Born-again licensed, ordained minister of the gospel of Jesus Christ.
• Knowledge of Baptist doctrine, practices and polity
• BA degree from an accredited institution of higher learning
• Senior Pastor for at least four to five

**BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH
P.O. BOX 4182
WINSTON-SALEM, NC 27115**

In seeking a pastor we are a 83 years old Baptist church having been led under the pastoral care of only (2) two pastors.

We're seeking a God called, God fearing, born again, Holy Ghost filled, licensed, ordained minister who is concerned about the whole man, body, soul and spirit.

Must have strong missionary baptist roots and be concerned with all areas of the church, having good leadership abilities and skills, both organizational and spiritual.

Must also have a broad knowledge of the Baptist doctrine, church policies and procedures and a willingness to follow the by-laws governing the church.

Good administrative and communication skills with the ability to teach, train church officers and auxiliary leaders. Able to communicate with all aged groups, especially the young.

Must have at least (3) three to (4) four years of pastoral experience.

Willing to submit to strict investigation, police and credit check.

Please respond to the Search Committee of Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church, P.O. Box 4182, Winston-Salem, NC 28115.

Please send your response by mail.

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06. Dangerous Minds
07. Don't Even Think About It
08. Fired Up By The Holy Ghost
09. Are You Full Of The Stuff
10. Let's Get On Board
11. God Picked Me To Be On His Side
12. Grace On The Race
13. Grow Up Or Blow Up
14. Hang In There
15. He Lifted Me Up Out Of The Miry Clay
16. Look Where The Lord Has Brought Me From
17. If My People
18. We Can Do It For A New Day Has Come
19. I Know What Prayer Can Do
20. Put Some Clothes On Child
21. A Right Thing In A Wrong Time
22. The Man Who Had Everything But The Right Thing
23. Soap For The Soul
24. Stay On The Lord's Side
25. If You Take One Step He'll Take Two
26. Stepping In Your Own Mess
27. I Can't Lose With The Stuff I Use
28. You Can't Touch This
29. Warm In A Cold Situation
30. That's The Way He Died But That's Not The End Of The Story
31. What You See Is What You Get
32. What's Faith Got To Do With It
33. You Can't Make It Without God
34. I Just Want To Say... "Thank You Lord"
35. A Heart Like Thine
36. Just A Closer Walk With Thee
37. Give Me A Clean Heart So I Can Serve You
38. What Ever The Problem God Has The Answer
39. Peace – In The Midst Of My Storm
40. I Am On The Right Road, Now!
41. A Good Man In A Bad Situation
42. Good Medicine For A Bad Ailment
43. Stand Up And Testify
44. Bad Boys! What You're Going To Do When He Comes For You
45. Angels Just Keep Watching Over Me
46. Go Ahead! Make My Day
47. A Trip To The Cross
48. Jesus! Jesus! Jesus! He Is Somebody's Preacher

49. On The Day Of Pentecost
50. Jesus Is All That! And A Whole Lot More
51. Muddy Putty In The Potter's Hands
52. When Stress Controls You Jesus Consoles You
53. Black Men And Women, Young And Old, Changing A Generation
54. I Am Black But I Am Somebody
55. Staying Afloat In A Sinking Boat
56. He That Has A Friend Must Show Himself Friendly
57. Victory Is Mine
58. Occupy Till I Come
59. A Man On A Mission / The Borrowed Ax
60. Busy In God's Business
61. That's Just Like Mama
62. He's Alive And I Am Glad About It
63. What The World Needs Now Is Love Sweet Love
64. I Moved From My Old House And My Old Friends
65. I Just Want To Know Why
66. What Do You Do When Life Is Not Fair
67. Why Do Bad Things Happen To Good People
68. What Do You Do When Your Brook Runs Dry
69. Diagnosis From Dr. Jesus, Go And See The Dr.
70. Who Is This Man
71. What Would Jesus Do
72. If I Could But Touch The Hem Of His Garment
73. Come See A Man
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74. Wounded By The Ones You Love
75. How To Stand In The Storms Of Life
76. Don't Quit
77. Speak To Me Lord Jesus
78. Get Behind Me Satan
79. Good Things Happen When Jesus Shows Up
80. Where Are You? Adam
81. Committed Because I Am Submitted
82. Are You A Disciplined Disciple
83. Answering God's Call
84. Too Blessed To Be Stressed
85. Thrilled By His Will
86. These Things Only Come By Prayer And Fasting
87. Just Like Daddy
88. I Got Two Wings And The World Can't Do Me No Harm
89. The Prayer Of Jabez
90. I Will Meet You On The Other Side
91. Can't Come Right Now, I Am On Duty
92. What A Mighty God We Serve
93. When Life Makes You Wonder
94. Fighting The Good Fight

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years

- Good administrative and communication skills
- Ability to communicate with all age groups especially the youth
- Leadership experience in developing or administering youth programs and community service programs
- Willingness to affiliate at the national, state and local Baptist conventions and associations.
- Present location within five hours driving time from Charlotte
- Willingness to submit to a police and credit check

Resumes for persons meeting these qualifications should be sent to the Pulpit Search Committee at the address shown above. Resume deadline date is September 19, 2002

UNION GROVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH – Youngsville, NC: seeking a church musician. For specific qualifications and duties,

please contact Pastor J.C. Sherrod at 919-242-4024. Please send resume or inquiries to

Attn: Rev. J.C. Sherrod
Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church
P.O. Box 730
Youngsville, NC 27596

FOSTER MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH – Rocky Mount, NC: The Pulpit Search Committee of the Foster Memorial Missionary Baptist Church located in Rocky Mount, North Carolina, is accepting resume for the position of pastor. Applicants must possess the following qualifications:

- He must possess good moral and ethical conduct, living by Timothy 3:1-1, Titus 1:7-9 and abstain from study activities and inclinations as those cited in Romans 1:26-27.
- He must have a minimum of three (3) years experience as pastor with demonstrated ability in counseling and super-

vising all work for the church.

- He must live in the proximity of the church.
- He must be born again, filled with the Holy Spirit and called by God to preach God's word.
- He must possess a strong knowledge of the Missionary Baptist Doctrine, Church Policies, and Practices, and be willing to abide by them.
- He must have the skills required to work with all age groups, with special emphasis on the youth.
- He must have the skills required for planning and implementing a vision for spiritual, physical and financial growth of the church. — He must be community oriented, and have strong family values.

- He must have a minimum of a high school diploma preferably a degree or courses in seminary training from an accredited college or university.
- He must be willing to attend Sunday School, Prayer Meetings, and teach Bible Study.

Please send resume to:

Foster Memorial Missionary Baptist Church, 1911 South Church Street
Post Office Box 6317
Rocky Mount, NC 2802-6317
C/O The Pulpit Committee
Trustee Hiawatha Knight

MOUNT CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH – Shelby, NC: currently accepting applications for a pastor with

strong Missionary Baptist roots. The Church is affiliated with the Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Association, and the General Baptist State Convention of N.C. Interested applicants should provide the following:

Resume (including pastor experiences and educational qualifications)
A copy of religious credentials (license/ordination)

At least three personal references (no family)

Send information to:

Pastor Search Committee
Mount Calvary Baptist Church
P.O. Box 3181
Shelby, N.C. 28151-3181

HOPPERS CHAPEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

– Shelby, NC: now accepting resumes for the position of pastor. Potential candidates must be a born again Christian with strong Baptist roots. Hoppers Chapel is a member of the Ebenezer Baptist Association. All applicants must possess the following qualifications.

- Must be ordained and licensed
- Must have at least 1 yr. Pastoral experience
- Must provide credentials of theological training
- Must be an effective teacher and counselor
- Must possess extensive knowledge of Baptist Doctrine

Richard H. Moore
State Treasurer

Dr. Archie Logan, Jr.
Executive Secretary-Treasurer
General Baptist State Convention

Dear Pastor,

The General Baptist State Convention joins Richard H. Moore, State Treasurer, in encouraging your Association and church to identify your unclaimed property. As your State Treasurer and Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the General Baptist State Convention, the two of us serve important roles in North Carolina. It is for this reason we want to make you aware of a program that may benefit both your church and its members.

The North Carolina Department of State Treasurer is responsible for administering the "Escheat and Unclaimed Property Program". The purpose of this program is simple; when a company or financial institution is holding money that belongs to a North Carolina resident and that individual cannot be located, the company is required by law to turn the money over to the Department of State Treasurer, where it is held until the rightful owner claims it. This "unclaimed cash" is often the result of forgotten utility deposits, bank accounts, stocks that were purchased, and checks that have not been cashed. Currently, the North Carolina Department of State Treasurer is holding over \$350 million in unclaimed cash that belongs to 1.4 million people and organizations.

It is important that as much of this money as possible gets returned to the rightful owners. In order to do that, we need your help. We hope that you can assist us in getting the word out about this program by letting your church members know it is there and making them aware of how they can check to see if they may be owed money.

The easiest way to find out if your name is on the Unclaimed Property list is to log onto the North Carolina Department of State Treasurer website at www.treasurer.state.nc.us. You then click on the "Unclaimed Property Program" link to get to a page where you can type in your name. We suggest not only checking your name with the proper spelling, but try variations on the spelling of your name, as well. Sometimes the reason money does not get to an individual is because the company sending it has the wrong address or incorrect spelling of the person's name.

It is also important to know that claiming your money through the Department of State Treasurer is completely free. You should be aware that there are services that DO charge a fee to locate any unclaimed funds that may be owed to you. It is not necessary to use these services or to pay a fee to have your money returned. You can claim your money directly from the Department of State Treasurer at no cost.

We believe sharing information regarding the "Unclaimed Property Program" with your church members is a valuable service. Not only will this information help your members to claim any money that they may be owed, but it will also be helpful to your communities as the word travels to relatives, friends and neighbors of your members. We also suggest you check the name of your church to see if money is owed to it. There are thousands of businesses and organizations that have unclaimed cash, and your church may be one of them.

We appreciate your assistance in helping us to make the citizens of North Carolina aware of this program, and look forward to working with you to return as much money as possible to your church members. The General Baptist Foundation is also available to assist you in locating your money at no cost; simply call the Foundation toll free at 1-866-858-7847 or log on to the General Baptist State Convention's website at www.GBSC.org, then click on the [N.C. Department of State Treasurer](http://www.GBSC.org) link to access the "Unclaimed Property Program".

Sincerely,

Richard H. Moore
State Treasurer

Dr. Archie Logan, Jr.
Executive Secretary-Treasurer
General Baptist State Convention

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- Provide a mission statement for the church
 - Live in close proximity to the church
- The applicant must have the ability to plan and implement a growth strategy for both the spiritual and physical growth of the church.

Send all resumes to:

Hoppers Chapel Missionary Baptist Church
C/O Pulpit Committee
415 West Graham St.
Shelby, N.C. 28150

CHURCH STAFF

MUSICIANS:

BASIC REQUIREMENTS FOR SERVICE:

1. Born-again Christian, Spirit-filled, and divinely gifted in music ministry.
2. Willingness to spiritually align the music ministry with Pastoral vision.
3. Above to play the piano. Keyboard and/or organ; able to read music and versatile.
4. Able to prepare choirs for Sunday morning worship services and other services.
5. Able to teach, as, well as direct choirs, with humility and love.
6. Able to rehearse with all choirs on

schedule, and available for all Sunday services.

7. Able to accompany Pastor and choirs to other services as required (or ensure qualified substitute is available).

8. Able to select appropriate hymns and songs for worship.

CHURCH MUSICIAN – Kittrell, NC: The Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church of Kittrell, North Carolina, is seeking a person to serve as church musician.

Qualifications:

- Christian-oriented, spiritually-filled, divinely gifted in music ministry
- Able and willing to accompany the pastor and choirs to other services
- Available for all Sunday services
- Willing and able to rehearse with all choirs on a regular schedule
- Willing to spiritually align the music ministry with the pastor's vision
- Willing and able to reach and direct choirs
- Able to select appropriate hymns and songs for worship

Salary is negotiable

All interested persons should send a cover letter with a resume *along with a recorded tape or CD of your work to:*

Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church
ATTN: Musician Committee
P.O. Box 175
Kittrell, North Carolina 27544

All completed application packages must be postmarked by January 31, 2003.

No application packages will be accepted or considered after January 31, 2003.

MINISTER OF MUSIC WANTED SPRINGFIELD BAPTIST CHURCH – Stanley, NC:

- A Spirit-filled leader – skilled in the Word
- Child of God
- Faithful and committed to God's program
- The gift to play by ear with or without the accompaniment of other musicians
- Has the ability to read and teach music
- Plays versatile music – which includes hymns, spirituals, contemporary gospel and praise songs
- Available to accompany the pastor and choirs to other churches when and as needed
- Available for all rehearsals and Sunday Worship service

Please contact: Melissa Fanning – (H) 704-563-3230 or Pastor Theodore Armstrong – Church 704-263-4426

MINISTER OF MUSIC NEEDED –

Wake Forest, NC: congregation seeks musician. 1) The duties include working directly with the Pastor in order to assist and cooperate with him in Christian Worship, 2.) Playing during Sunday morning worship service, 3.) Rehearsing with various choirs one night per week, 4.) And accompanying the Pastor on engagements to other churches. Please forward a cover letter and resume to:

Evans Grove Missionary Baptist Church
12700 Creedmoor Road
Highway 50
Wake Forest, NC 27587
(919) 870-8874

MINISTER OF MUSIC VACANCY: THE SPRING GREEN MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH –

Warrenton, NC: seeks a Minister of Music to provide musical direction and accompaniment for 4 choirs in the church. This person will work closely with the Pastor to provide spiritual leadership in the ministry of Jesus

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55 Years of Experience

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To Minister, Trustee and Church Members,
Dear Christian Leader and Friends,

It is my hope that I will be a help to you in your next building project. Although you may not have a plan that exactly fits your needs, I may help you find a starting point to develop your own plan.

I have built and designed more than 45 churches in my 55 years of general contracting.

Church building should be compatible with their neighborhoods. The quality of construction, design, and landscaping should create a meaningful setting which is an inspiration to its members and the community.

When you consult with me, my first step is a detailed inquiry of the various programs at your church. This enables me to understand the main focus of your ministry and it helps you understand my services. Our first meeting is to get acquainted and find out your needs.

The second step is providing a master plan of your entire church property and renderings or models of the proposed buildings.

The third step is preparing your construction drawings which include:

1. Sound systems
2. Special lighting effects
3. Design plans
4. Structural design
5. Energy saving heating and cooling
6. Specifications (in laypersons language)

I have found that coordinating all of these design phases through one firm avoids costly delays, misunderstanding and mistakes during constructions.

There are many phases in church planning and design which require a specialist in that field. When you start your next building program, I hope you will give me a call.

At Your Service,
Thomas L. Jones



BAPTIST INFORMER RENEWAL / SUBSCRIPTION FORM

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Christ through music, i.e. hymns, spiritual songs, and praise and worship music that glorifies God.

We are accepting resumes from candidates with the appropriate qualifications. (Specific qualifications listed in beginning of staff musician section.) For additional information please send inquiry or resume to:

Spring Green Missionary Baptist Church
PO Box 924, Warrenton, NC 2589
Rev. Dennis G. Lindsay, Pastor

MUSICIAN NEEDED – Oakboro, NC: Must be a Christian available to serve every Sunday. Prepare Choirs and Praise Team for Sunday morning worship. Rehearse with choirs on scheduled times. Be available to accompany Pastor and choirs to church functions. Direct congregation in congregational hymns. Must be able to play by ear as well as read music

To apply call:
(704) 532-6813 or E-mail to
GalileeNC@aol.com
Galilee Missionary Baptist Church
PO. Box 644, Oakboro, NC 28129

CHURCH MUSICIAN VACANCY: FIRST MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH – Selma, NC: seeks musician for youth choir. Must be a Christian with good character.

Requirements:

- Play the organ and piano
 - Able to play sacred and gospel music
 - Read music and have the ability to play by ear
- Send resume to:

Reverend S. Manfred Isom, Pastor
415 Star Ruby Drive
Knightdale, NC 27545

MINISTER OF MUSIC NEEDED: THE PENN AVENUE MOUNT OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH –

Lewiston, NC: seeking a musician for a station church, a Christian, who is responsible, has good character and a good reputation.

Requirements:

- *Plays the organ and piano
- *Able to work with a diverse group of singers
- *Experienced in all sacred music
- *Reads music and is versatile in playing by ear

Send resumes or responses to:
Mount Olive Baptist Church
PO Box 214

Lewiston-Woodville, NC 27849
Attention: William W. Peele, Jr.

MINISTER OF MUSIC WANTED: THE PENN AVENUE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH – Oxford, NC: currently seeking a Minister of Music.

QUALIFICATIONS:

(Specific qualifications listed in beginning of staff musician section.)

- *Will be responsible with the pastor's approval in hiring other musicians if deemed necessary.

Salary: Negotiable
Sunday worship services. Service begins each Sunday at 11 a.m. with the exception of 5th Sunday services which begin at 10 a.m. Please send resume to the above listed address or

inquiries may be made by calling one of the above listed numbers.

CHURCH MUSICIAN NEEDED – Warren County, NC: Knowledge of music and the ability to play by ear is appreciated. Presently, morning worship service is held every fourth (4th) Sunday, but we are considering an additional Sunday for services. Must be able to play for youth choir and adult choir. Church is located in Warren County, North Carolina. For further information, please call:
(252) 257-0221

CHURCH MUSICIAN: THE CEDAR GROVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH – Gibson, NC: seeking a person to serve as Church Musician. Qualifications: (Specific qualifications listed in beginning of staff musician section.) Salary negotiable. Please send resume to Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Church at this address.

Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Church
14600 Railroad St.
Gibson, NC 28343

CHURCH MUSICIAN: THE FRIENDSHIP MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH – High Point, NC: accepting resumes for a Church Musician. Qualifications: (Specific qualifications listed in beginning of staff musician section.) Salary negotiable.

715 West Willis Ave.
High Point, NC 27260

THE GREATER PINEY GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH – Atlanta, GA: seeking an experienced, dynamic worship and praise Minister of Music. We seek a person who first and foremost has a passion for God and His Word, then a passion for people and for music.

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A person in this position must possess formal training and expertise in the area of music, has excellent organizational skills, and the ability to work cooperatively with a diverse group of people.

EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS
Bachelor of Science Degree in Music with concentration in choral, church, or music education, a minimum of two years of work experience as Minister of Music or Minister of Music Assistant in a similar Church environment.

An Instrument skill proficiency test is required on piano and organ. Must possess the ability to organize and prioritize tasks, events, and activities; ability to work under pressure of deadlines; make decisions; and establish effective working relationships with the Pastor, choir members, church members, supervisor, and church community.

•Resumes will be accepted until August 31, 2002. Start date for this position will be December 31, 2002.

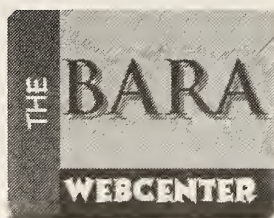
•If the Holy Spirit excites you about this opportunity to serve God, and you meet the qualifications and expectations described above, we would love to hear from you. Please e-mail your resume to or mail it to:

The Greater Piney Grove Baptist Church
1879 Glenwood Avenue, S.E.
Atlanta, GA 30313
Attn: Personnel Committee

JEFFRIES CROSS BAPTIST CHURCH – Burlington, NC:

Send cover letter and resume to Jeffries Cross Baptist Church, 2015 Jeffries Cross Rd., Burlington, NC 27217. Phone: 336-226-9626. We are currently seeking a musician who will work directly with the pastor to provide spiritual leadership in the music ministry. Qualifications: 1. A Christian with piano, keyboard, organ ability; read music, play chords, teach harmony, direct choirs, conduct two rehearsals per month with four choirs, accompany pastor on engagements, accommodate traditional and contemporary worship styles.

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It only takes 10 to get a 20% discount on Carolina Ballet *Messiah* tickets. Groups of 10 or more are able to purchase tickets early and receive the best possible seating selection. Go to www.carolinaballet.com for detailed seating and pricing information. Call Jan Cumberworth, Group Sales Mgr., Carolina Ballet at (919) 367-7862 or email jancballet@hotmail.com for details.

Join the Lewis Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, of Fayetteville, NC

Escorted by Rev. Olu Menjay
and Rev. Beverly Spivey

at the 14th Baptist Youth/Young Adult World Conference in Hong Kong, China July 13 – 21, 2003

Inclusions

- Round trip economy airfare from Washington to Hong Kong via Singapore Airlines/similar
- \$250,000 automatic flight insurance on all tickets issued by Travelink
- BWA non-refundable registration fee \$125
- Round trip airport/hotel transfers provided by HKTA
- Hotel/convention transfers daily provided by HKTA
- Hotel accommodations
- Buffet breakfast daily
- Hong Kong city tour
- Travel bag

Not Included

- Meals not specified
- U.S. and Hong Kong airport departure taxes, customs & security fees
- Single room supplement

The **Renaissance Garden View Hotel** is located on Hong Kong Island within walking distance of the conference venue.

The **Marco Polo Hotel** is located on Kowloon Island with transfers provided via private coach or via ferry.

Itinerary

Sun July 13 Raleigh-Durham/West Coast via United

Mon July 14 Depart West Coast via Singapore Airlines

Tue July 15 Arrive in Hong Kong

You are met in the Arrival Hall by your Travelink representative and transferred by deluxe motor coach to your hotel for 6 nights. Balance of day at leisure to rest and explore on your own.

Wed July 16 Hong Kong

Buffet breakfast at hotel. This morning depart the hotel by air-conditioned coach via the bustling crowded city of Kowloon to traverse the world-renowned Victoria Harbor via the Crossharbor Tunnel. We then drive by Wanchai to reach Victoria Peak for a breathtaking 360-degree view of the bustling harbor, Hong Kong Island and Kowloon as far as the eye can see. From Victoria Peak the tour continues passing by the scenic resort areas of Repulse Bay and Deep Water Bay. A stop is made at Stanley Market which is known for its great discounts on all kinds of merchandise from name brand clothing to souvenirs. We then continue to Aberdeen Village to see the many floating sampan fishing villages. Return to our hotel with time for lunch on your own before transfer to the conference site. 6:00PM 14th Baptist Youth World Conference opens.

Thu July 17 Attend 14th Baptist Youth World Conference

Fri July 18 Conference

Sat July 19 Conference

Sun July 20 Conference closes at 1:00PM

Balance day of leisure.

Mon Jul 21 Depart Hong Kong

Buffet breakfast at hotel. Full day at leisure for shopping and personal activities. Hotel check-out by 12:00PM. 6:30PM transfer by private coach to airport for return flights.

Dear Friends,

The Baptist World Alliance is delighted to extend to you a special invitation to attend the 14th Baptist Youth/Young Adult World Conference, July 16-20, 2003 in Hong Kong, China. I will add from my personal experience that Hong Kong is a beautiful city!

During this meeting, the world meets together to share and celebrate JESUS CHRIST. Among various opportunities during this world meeting, there will be stimulating world speakers, dynamic worship celebration, international music, and in-depth Bible Study meetings and fellowship.

The Lewis Chapel Church in collaboration with Travelink, Inc., has provided for you a customized package for this world meeting. Please contact Travelink, Inc. as soon as possible to make your travel plans. Join us in HK!

Reverend Olu Q. Menjay

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BAPTIST INFORMER

Volume 126, No. 3

Publication of the General Baptist State Convention of N.C., Inc.
Voice of 500,000 North Carolina Baptists

March 2003

All Ministers, Pastors, Preachers, Evangelists and Missionaries Are Invited to the 2003 Minister's Council Leadership Summit

By Archie D. Logan, Jr.
Executive Secretary-Treasurer

Special Guests:

Rev. Dr. James Allen, Pastor of Vine
Memorial Baptist Church,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and

Reverend Dr.
Johnnie Jordan,
Greater Mt.
Olive
Missionary
Baptist
Church,
Detroit,
Michigan



Dr. Archie
Logan, Jr.

Grace to you
and peace from
God our Father
and the Lord
Jesus Christ. This year's 2003
Minister's Council Leadership Summit
will be held Thursday, March 6 and
Friday, March 7, 2003. The Mt. Peace
Baptist Church, 1601 Martin Luther
King, Jr. Boulevard, Raleigh, NC, is
hosting the SUMMIT; where the
Reverend J. Vincent Terry serves as
pastor.

Make your plans early. We want
each Church and Association to send
the pastor, moderator, all associates,
evangelists, and missionaries. We are
having special classes and lectures for
our enrichment and spiritual growth.
In keeping with President Charles T.
Collock's theme for our Convention
"To Serve This Present Age", the
Minister's Council sub-theme is
"Being Living Sacrifices In The
Living Spirit Of The Lord and
His Favor". Romans 12:1; Philippians
3:11; John 13:34-35.

The Leadership Summit 2003 will
have a valuable variety of premium
preaching and teaching from pastors
and preachers from across the state
and around the nation. We are more
than pleased to announce that the 2003
Distinguished Lecturer for the
Leadership Summit 2003 is the Rev.
Dr. James Allen, Pastor of Vine
Memorial Baptist Church,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Dr. Allen
also serves as the Director of the
Minister's Division of the National
Baptist Congress of Christian
Education of NBC, USA, Inc.

THE CONFERENCE CURRICU- LUM WILL INCLUDE THE FOL- LOWING COURSES:

Dr. David Briggs, Communicating
Passion In Your Preaching;
Reverend Everett Dickerson, Church
Administration;
Dr. Terry Thomas, Developing Fruit-
Bearing Disciples;
Reverend Dennis Leach, The Roles of
the Associate Minister;
Dr. James Smith, Managing Conflict
in the Church: A Legal Perspective;
Dr. Benjamin Hinton, Transitional
Leadership in the 21st Century;
And Reverend Fredrick James, The
Minister's Benefits.

You may choose from any two (2)
of these courses, which will be offered
both days of the conference, mornings
and evenings. On Friday morning and
evening only, Dr. R. Logan Carson,
our senior instructor, will offer a
course in Ministerial Ethics. We sin-
cerely solicit your prayers and pres-
ence at the Leadership Summit. Join
us in praying that this conference will

aid and accentuate our adoration for
the almighty and affection for one
another. For all who can, let those of
us that share the same heart, for the
Holy community – the church and the
Heavenly King of the Cosmos-Christ,
shake hands at Leadership Summit
2003.

Reverend Dr. James S. Allen

The Reverend James S. Allen was
born in Columbia County, Arkansas.
His early education was in a three-



Rev. Dr. James S. Allen

room school-
house, to which
he had to walk
four miles to
and from each
day. Upon
graduating from
high school, as
valedictorian of
his class, and
finding no jobs,
as well as being unable to go to col-
lege because of the lack of finance,
Reverend Allen joined the United
States Air Force at the time of the
Korean Conflict.

On July 5, 1957, he was married to
the late Dorothy Hunter Allen. This
union was blessed to have four chil-
dren. He assisted the late Dr. Leon H.
Sullivan in establishing the OIC in
Little Rock. Reverend Allen has
received many honors and awards.
Among them is the Outstanding
Religious Leader's Award from the
State of Arkansas during its
Sesquicentennial Celebration 1986,
Outstanding Citizen's Award,
Delaware Valley Christians and Jews
1985 and the Distinguished Service

Award from Congressman William H.
Gray 1980. Reverend Allen is the
Moderator of the Pennsylvania Eastern
Keystone Baptist Association. He is
the pastor of the Vine Memorial
Baptist Church, Philadelphia,
Pennsylvania and has served this
Church and community for the past
twenty-four years.

Reverend Dr. Johnnie Jordan

The Reverend Dr. Johnnie Jordan
was born in Limestone County,
Alabama. After accepting Christ he



Rev. Dr. Johnnie Jordan

began his min-
istry singing
with a quartet
known as the
"Song Birds of
the South". He
is married to the
former Odean
Southard and
they are the par-
ents of five chil-
dren. Dr. Jordan is a graduate of
Detroit Bible College, Detroit Urban
Bible College School of Religious
Studies.

He has received many awards, cer-
tificates and plaques for his outstand-
ing work as Evangelist, Pastor and
civic involvement in the community.
He is the pastor of the Greater Mount
Olive Missionary Baptist Church,
Detroit. He has served on the Board
of Directors of Todd Phillips Home
For Boys; Project Each One, Reach
One; Save Our Children. He serves as
Civil Rights and Social Justice
Commissioner for the National Baptist
Convention, USA, Inc. ■

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OUR 136TH YEAR

News from the Minister's Council

By Dr. Donaldson Jones, President



Dr. Donaldson Jones

Greetings in the matchless name of His Excellence, Christ Jesus.

In just a few short days that monolithically marvelous moment, Thursday, March 6 and Friday, March 7 shall be upon us with Leadership Summit 2003. The morning

session begins at 8:45 AM each day with prayer and praise.

Get ready, get ready, get ready! This train is coming down the track and you don't want to miss it. The anxious sky appears almost animated with silent suspense, and there is a noted spirit navigating the course of North Carolina shoreline and borders filling the air everywhere around Leadership Summit 2003 with the electricity of excitement.

Our beloved Convention President, Dr. Charles Bullock, the ecclesiastical engineer of this luminous locomotive of love, life and light we call G.B.S.C. is effulgent with excitement.

The Minister's Council co-conductor, the venerably precious Vice President

Rev. Walter S. Taylor, is ethereally excited. Our entire council staff in conjunction with all the teachers and preachers programmed are ecstatically excited. The huge-hearted host pastor, Dr. J. Vincent Terry and the fabulous folks in that fellowship of faith known as Mt. Peace Baptist Church (located at 1601 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Raleigh, NC) are enchantingly excited.

Our 2203 distinguished lecturer, Dr. James S. Allen, Director of the Minister's Division of the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education, N.B.C., USA, Inc. is enthralled in excitement.

Dr. Johnnie E. Jordan, co-chairman of the late night services of the National Baptist Convention USA, Inc. is enthusiastically excited.

And I must confess when I process all that you and I are going to be privileged

to hear and heed, I am myself indeed a perpetual percolator of ever escalating excitement. Moreover, most meaningfully important are the intercessory petitions posted on behalf of persons participating in Leadership Summit 2003. We seriously and sincerely pray that God will use this conference to our human delight and his holy glory.

And finally, we pray that you and I will be explosively ignited by Holy Ghost fire, to blast away the melancholy mountain hangers of ignorance, immorality, and injustice that blight the landscape of local communities and the cosmos at large; that we might prepare the way for the return of the soon-coming King.

To serve the present age,
My calling to fulfill,
May it all my powers engage
To do my Master's will.

Dr. Clarence G. Newsome Named New President of Shaw University, Raleigh, NC

By Archie D. Logan, Jr.
Executive Secretary-Treasurer

The Reverend Dr. Clarence G. Newsome was officially introduced as the new President of Shaw University, Thursday, February 13, 2003, in the W. B. Lewis Lecture Hall at the Shaw University Divinity School. Board Chairman Attorney Willie E. Gary introduced him to the public. Surrounding the new President was his wife, family and Trustee Board members.



Dr. Clarence G. Newsome

Dr. Newsome is a native of Ahoskie, North Carolina. He received his Bachelor of Arts, Masters of Divinity and Doctor of Philosophy degrees from Duke University. A Dean's List student during his undergraduate years, he lettered in football and was twice named to the Atlantic Coast Conference All-Academic Team, among the first black athletes to be so honored. Completing his undergraduate studies in three and a half years, Dr. Newsome enrolled in the Divinity School and graduated *magna cum laude*. He interrupted his studies for a year to serve as Acting Dean of Minority Affairs and Director of the University's Summer Transitional Program for High School Students. His substantive innovations with the Transitional Program garnered increased budget support and won the praise of many critics at a time when plans were underway to discontinue it.

During his doctoral studies, Dr. Newsome received a number of awards and fellowships, including the prestigious James B. Duke Dissertation Year Fellowship. Dr. Newsome was a member of the Duke Divinity School faculty for

eight years. Even early in his career as an American Religious Historian, he was noted for the quality of his lectures and the depth of insight he brought to his scholarship. The 1982 senior class honored him by selecting him to be the faculty baccalaureate speaker. Dr. Newsome is the former pastor of the Mount Level Missionary Baptist Church, Durham, North Carolina, and is the current Chairman of the General Baptist Foundation, Inc. In 1986, he was invited to become the Assistant Dean of the Howard University School of Divinity. He was appointed the first Associate Dean in the School's history in 1988. In 1991, he was appointed Acting Dean upon the retirement of Dr. Lawrence N. Jones. In 1992, he was appointed the School's 14th Dean.



Since joining the Howard University School of Divinity community, Dr. Newsome has played a major role in helping to guide the School to an unqualified position of pre-eminence among theological institutions in the United States and Canada. As Associate Dean, he led the faculty in finalizing the revision of its Masters of Divinity curriculum. As Dean, he has created the first Office for Student Services, and the first Office of Institutional Advancement and Development in the School's history. The positive impact of both offices is already apparent. Applications have increased 40%. In addition, the School has won two consecutive awards from the University's

Academic Affairs Division for fund raising and alumni support.



Dr. Newsome has held several positions in national organizations, among them president of the Society for the Study of Black Religion, a nationwide think tank of scholars engaged in studying the religious experience of African Americans. He has served on the Advisory Committee of the North American-European Theological Seminar of the American Academy of Religion, and on the Board of Directors of the Duke University National Alumni Association. He served for two years as the Chairman of the Duke Divinity School Board of Visitors. He serves on several major committees of the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada and is a former Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Washington Theological Consortium, an organization of nine theological schools in the Washington, DC, metropolitan area. He is a member of the Duke University Trustee Board.

The author of a number of scholarly articles, some considered pioneering in the area of religious biography, Dr. Newsome is highly regarded throughout the nation as one of the most profound, insightful, engaging and sensitive thinkers of our day. He is frequently called upon to preach or speak. He is married to Lynne Platt of Charlotte, North Carolina. They have two daughters: Gina Lynn, age 22; and Brittany Ann, age 17.

THE BAPTIST INFORMER

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THEME: "By the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness..." (II Corinthians 6:7)

Calling All Churches to Stewardship Commitment

By Dr. Charles T. Bullock

"Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is

required in stewards, that a man be found faithful" (1 Corinthians 4:1-2).



Dr. Charles Bullock

Often times the definition of stewardship is limited and inadequate. Especially when we think of stewardship only

in terms of bringing tithes and offerings to the Lord's house. However, we must be mindful that God holds us accountable to be good stewards of the treasure that He gives us. We are accountable to God for that which we earn, spend, save, invest, and give. Stewardship does not end there, for time has been allotted to us, the precious commodity of which life is made. We may waste it, misuse it or abuse it, or we may use it for the glory of God, for our own well being, or for the good of others. We are also accountable for the use of the talents and gifts that God has given us, whether they are mental, physical or artistic. We are responsible to God and to our fellow man for the use of them.

Paul wrote to the church at Corinth and called special attention to the churches of Macedonia who had shown great generosity in supporting the Lord's work, in spite of their impoverished circumstances. They had come through a severe test of affliction; they were persecuted for their faith, they were victims of many wars, yet they understood Paul's teaching, that a part of their commitment to Christ is supporting the work of His churches.

The General Baptist State

Convention is composed of churches throughout the state of North Carolina and we are grateful for the financial contributions that many of our churches are giving in support of the Lord's work through the convention. You have been very liberal with your gifts, To God be the Glory. It is our prayer that your support will continue. However, according to financial records, many churches have not contributed to the Lord's work through our convention and we appeal to you as Paul appealed to the Corinthians for financial support that we may continue the Lord's work in ministry to human kind through our convention. As a convention, we stand accountable to God and to you to administer to the needs of human kind. We are also held accountable to ensure you that funds that are designated for ministries or objectives are given to the ministries or objectives for which they are designated.

Some years ago the convention adopted a plan known as the Unified Plan wherein funds that were contributed to the convention would be given to the objectives of the convention. They included State Mission, Shaw University, Shaw Divinity School, The Central Children Home and The Lott Carey Convention. Since the adoption of that plan, the ministry of the convention has expanded to the extent that the Unified Plan, as intended, is not sufficient today to support the ministry of the convention. Therefore in the very near future, I will ask a committee to study the ministries of our convention and the Unified Plan in order to suggest a plan that will be sufficient for today's ministries.

I believe that it is necessary and important for Christian Education field workers to continue to make themselves available to our churches and associations for workshops and seminars. We must continue to make funds available for them and for those who teach in our congress, those who teach in other auxiliary settings

and our annual meetings. Christian Education is a very important component of our ministry and we look forward to the time when credits will be given for continuing education.

Our ministries today not only include Christian Education or Continuing Education. It includes ministering to the hungry, to the homeless, to the sick, to those in prison and the list goes on. For the scripture says "Inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these, you did it to me", or "Inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me." I know that we are not a welfare agent, we are not realtors, we are not the Department of Correction, but we are

God's people – so are the hungry, the sick, the homeless, and those who are in prison. God holds us accountable to administer unto them.

I call upon every disciple of Christ, every church member and pastor of every church who would be counted in the body of Christ through the General Baptist State Convention, to give your liberal and generous support, as some are already doing for the ongoing ministries of the convention. If there are reasons that you have held your financial support, please inform us that we may better serve you. We are committed "To Serve The Present Age."

UPCOMING SESSIONS

- ◆ **March 6-7, 2003** **Ministers' Leadership Conference**
Mt. Peace Baptist Church, 1601 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Raleigh, NC
Host Pastor: J. Vincent Terry, 919-807-1194
Dr. Donaldson Jones, Ministers' Council President
- ◆ **March 8, 2003** **Laymen's Study Commission Meeting**
Antioch Baptist Church, 232 Skyland Ave., Charlotte, NC
Host Pastor: Donnie Garriss, 704-332-4951
Mr. John Gladden, Laymen's President
- ◆ **April 8-11, 2003** **Annual Statewide Evangelism Conference**
Union Baptist Church 1200 N. Trade St., Winston-Salem, NC
Host Pastor: Rev. Sir Walter Mack, 336-724-9305
Rev. Robert McGowen, Evangelism Chairman
- ◆ **April 11-12, 2003** **Laymen's Mid-Annual Banquet**
Mid Annual One-Day Session
St. Stephens Missionary Baptist Church
5000 Noble St., Winston-Salem, NC
Host Pastor: Rev. Joseph Samuels, 336-744-7279
Mr. John Gladden, Laymen's President
- ◆ **April 24-26, 2003** **Statewide Church Music Conference**
First Baptist Church, 302 Moore St., Fayetteville, NC
Host Pastor: Rev. Cureton Johnson, 910-483-6505
Mr. David Eggleston, Music Coordinator
- ◆ **May 5-7, 2003** **136th Mid-Year Annual Session**
Sycamore Hill Baptist Church, Greenville, NC
Host Pastor: Dr. Howard Parker, 252-756-4898
- ◆ **May 17, 2003** **Laymen's Mini-Skills Exhibit**
JJ Johnson Baptist Assembly, Laurel Hill, NC, 910-462-3440
Mr. John Gladden, laymen's President
- ◆ **July 17-19, 2003** **GBSC Unity Session**
Second Calvary Baptist Church, 114 Nelson Ave., Charlotte, NC, 704-398-0147
- ◆ **October 26-30, 2003** **GBSC Annual Session**
Ebenezer Baptist Church, 2020 W. Sugar Creek Rd., Charlotte, NC
Host Pastor: Leonzo Lynch, 704-598-2219

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Responsibilities of Nonprofit Boards

By Dr. John H. Grant
Vice President At Large

As Chairman of our Convention's General Board, I submit the following reflections on the responsibilities of the General Board and nonprofit boards in



Dr. John H. Grant

general. Article VIII and Section 1 of the Constitution of this convention states in part that the "General Board shall elect an Executive Committee . . . and shall supervise the work of the Executive Committee. It shall do the work of the Convention during the interim of its session. It shall report annually to the Convention on its work during the interim."

In order to "do the work of the Convention", we the members of the General Board need to have a clear understanding and consensus of a board's role. My comments are offered to help facilitate that clarity and consensus. A board's appropriate role is governance/policy issues. As a general rule, the Board governs and determines policy while the staff implements. If, however, "an organization is experiencing internal turmoil or transition, the board may exert its leadership by implementing policy as well as developing it, but the board should accept such a hands-on role only as an interim measure." Boards must not micromanage. The chief execu-

tive (Dr. Archie D. Logan in our case) manages the organization and staff, and is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the organization. "Simply put, the Board is responsible for the ends and the staff are responsible for the means. To use a nautical analogy, the board determines where the organization needs to head, charts the appropriate course, and checks progress along the way. The staff, with the chief executive as its captain, moves the organization toward its destination, taking care to avoid rough waters."

Listed below are ten responsibilities of nonprofit boards.¹

- Determine the organization's mission and purpose.
- Select the chief executive.
- Provide proper financial oversight.
- Ensure adequate financial resources.
- Ensure legal and ethical integrity and maintain accountability.
- Ensure effective organizational planning.
- Recruit and orient new board members and assess board performance.
- Enhance the organization's public standing.
- Determine, monitor, and strengthen the organization's programs and services.
- Support the chief executive and assess his or her performance.

¹ Robert C. Andringa, Nonprofit Board Answer Book II Beyond the Basics, Washington, D.C.:BoardSource, 2002, p. 5.

² Andringa, p. 167.

³ For more details, see Richard T. Ingram, Ten Basic Responsibilities of Nonprofit Boards, Washington, D.C.:BoardSource, 2003.

From the First Vice-President

Dr. Howard W. Parker, Jr.
State Mission

In my last article, I shared with you the Strategic Goals for 2003 of our Institutional & Specialized Ministries (formerly the Prison Ministries). The



Dr. Howard Parker, Jr.

Rev. Michael R. Smith, Sr., Chairman and his Leadership Coordinators are working to educate General Baptists to realize the devastating effects on our communities caused by the over 65% of African Americans incarcerated in the N.C. Department of Correction. In this article, I desire to share with you more facts about prisons and prisoners.

The Growing Corrections System:

- The number of inmates in state and federal prisons has increased more than six-fold from less than 200,000 in 1970 to 1,381,900 by the end of 2000. An additional 621,100 are held in local jails.
- The number of persons on probation and parole has been growing dramatically along with institutional populations. There are now 6.5 million Americans incarcerated or on probation, or parole, an increase of more than 240% since 1980.
- Nearly one in ten (9.7%) of Black males age 25-29 were in prison in

2000, as were 1 in 34 (2.9%) Hispanic males and about 1 in 100 white males in the same age group.

- The 2000 United States rate of incarceration of 699 inmates per 100,000 population is the highest report rate in the world, now ahead of Russia's rate of 644 per 100,000.

Who Is In Our Prisons and Jails?

93% of prison inmates are male, 7% female.

46% of prison inmates in 1999 were Black and 15% were Hispanic.

68% of state prison inmates in 1997 had not completed high school.

33% of jail inmates in 1991 were unemployed prior to entering jail.

32% of jail inmates in 1991 who had been free for at least one year prior to their arrest had annual incomes of under \$5,000.

70% of those sentenced to state prisons in 1998 were convicted of non-violent crimes, including 31% for drug offenses, and 26% for property offenses.

60% of jail inmates in 1996 reported they were under the influence of alcohol or drugs at the time they committed their offense.

1 in 4 jail inmates in 1996 was in jail for a drug offense, compared to 1 in 10 in 1983; drug offenders constituted 21% of 1999 state prison inmates and 57% of 1999 federal prison inmates.

Black males have a 29% chance of serving time in prison at some point in their lives; Hispanic males have a 16% chance; white males have a 4% chance.

Sources: Bureau of Justice Statistics and The Sentencing Project. ■

From the Desk of the Second Vice-President

By Reverend Nilous M. Avery, II – M. Div.

"To the saints in (the General Baptist family), the faithful in Christ; Grace and Peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Praise be to the God



Rev. Nilous Avery, II

and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ" (Ephesians 1:1b-3).

After spending quiet time praising and thanking God for a brand new day on Saturday, February 1st, I turned on the television and moved about the house. The networks were all in "SPECIAL

REPORT" status indicating something was amiss. My first thought was that the "war drums" of the U.S. confrontation with Iraq had become the drumbeats of a long expected attack.

Instead, the incoming reports were announcing the loss of contact with the space shuttle Columbia crew of seven astronauts. Within seconds, videos were showing the remains of the shuttle streaking across the sky with pieces falling off. By the end of the day, the reports confirmed that the space shuttle Columbia had indeed disintegrated over several states and the seven astronauts did not survive.

This event evoked several thoughts. First, I was reminded of the January 1986 explosion of the space shuttle Challenger seventy-three seconds after take-off. Next, I noted the time of the Columbia's troubles, between 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m., when all contact was lost. This

reminded me of the events on September 11th, 2001, when coordinated terrorist attacks on New York, Washington, D.C., and Shanksville, Pennsylvania were carried out around the same time frame.

The past days have been filled with tributes to Columbia's crew and insight into the operations of NASA and its shuttle missions. NASA invests an abundant amount of energy, money, and time with equipping, preparing, and training the astronauts. Throughout its mission and particularly upon re-entry into the Earth's atmosphere, NASA's engineering experts at Mission Control in Houston, Texas guide the shuttle.

Mission Control's "unseen hands", combined with the astronauts' discipline and training, often provided the elements for successful missions. In over 100 missions, amazingly, only two have ended catastrophically. In all the missions, the astronauts have been well-trained and entrusted with great responsibility as well as the authority to take action.

Similarly, Christian disciples are guided throughout our mission by creation's expert at "Mission Control", God Almighty through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior! Training and discipline are essential for empowerment to complete the greatest of all missions: taking the Gospel to all people and making disciples.

Jesus empowers us with his spiritual presence, the Holy Spirit: "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally" (Acts 1:8, paraphrase). Like the astronauts, Christian disciples are entrusted with great responsibility as well as the authority to take action. Unlike the astronauts, our "Mission Control" will not lose contact with us. Jesus constantly abides with us, supplying never-ending power and direction for our clearly stated mission: to make disciples – to the ends of the earth!

See AVERY, Page 5

What Is Evangelism?

By Rev. Robert McGowens, Sr.

There are three (3) definitions of Evangelism I have found helpful.

The first one is one word – OVERFLOW.



Rev. Robert McGowens

It gives the right nuance of someone who is so full of joy about Jesus Christ that it overflows like a bathtub that is filled to overflow with water. Paul reminds the Thessalonians that "our gospel comes to you not only in

word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and (in much plenitude), much confident overflow (1 Thessalonians 1,5).

The second definition is a phrase attributed to C. H. Spurgeon, the famous nineteenth-century British preacher and evangelist. He maintained that Evangelism "is one beggar telling another beggar where to get bread". There is no way that an evangelist is any better or on any higher ground than the person to whom he is talking. The ground is level around the cross of Christ. The only difference between the two hungry beggars is that one has been fed and knows where food is always available.

But perhaps the most all embracing definition of Evangelism belongs to the English Archbishop William Temple in the report entitled "Towards the Conversion of England" and runs as follows:

"To evangelize is to present Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit, that men shall come to put their trust in God through him, to accept him as their

Savior, and serve him as their King in the fellowship of his church."

And that says some very important things about Evangelism:

No. 1. Evangelism is one of the primary reasons for the Church's existence.

No. 2. Evangelism is the good news about Jesus.

No. 3. Evangelism in order to be effective depends entirely on the work of

the Holy Spirit.

No. 4. Evangelism means incorporation into the Church, the body of Christ.

No. 5. Evangelism challenges decisions.

No. 6. Evangelism issues in discipleship. ■

AVERY, Cont'd From Page 4

Plans are being finalized for the formation and implementation of the Committee for Foreign Missions. "Thank you" to those who have responded so far. A few more slots are available. All interested disciples are asked to contact and leave a message stating your desire to serve:

Reverend Nilous M. Avery, II
P. O. Box 2767
Salisbury, NC 28145-2767

704-637-0954; 704-637-1137 (fax)

"The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you. My love to all of you in Christ Jesus. Amen." (1 Corinthians 16:23-24, NIV.) ■

GBSC Family & Friends

Annual General Baptist State Convention Evangelism Conference
April 8-10

By Rev. Robert McGowens, Sr.

General Chairman GBSC Evangelism Ministry
GRACE AND PEACE BE UNTO YOU:

I am soliciting your support for our annual General Baptist State Convention Evangelism Conference to be held April 8, 9, and 10, 2003 at Union Baptist Church, Winston-Salem, NC. Please spread the word.

Dr. Joseph S. Ratliff, pastor of the Brentwood Baptist Church, Houston, Texas, will conduct the School of Evangelism. This will begin promptly at 6:00 p.m. nightly.

The conference Preacher will be Dr. Harold A. Carter, pastor of the New Shiloh Baptist Church, Baltimore, Maryland. This will begin promptly at 8:00 p.m. nightly.

The conference Music Ministry and Choir Director will be nationally renowned recording artist Mr. Luther Barnes. We are soliciting your help to form a **Statewide Evangelism Conference Choir** under the direction of Mr. Luther Barnes.

Contact persons are: Mr. Derrick Webster (336) 427-4571 or (336) 643-5201; Dr. Sir Walter Mack, Jr. (336) 724-9305; Rev. Anthonette Wright (919) 570-0931 or (919) 522-3121.

Friday night, April 11, 2003, has been designated as Youth Night.

We are asking Associations and

churches to bring their Youth Mass Choirs, Gospel Steppers, Youth Praise Team and Interpretive Dance Teams. For more information concerning Friday night events, please contact the above names.

During the three-day Conference, we will have hands-on opportunities to evangelize. We are planning worship services and ministry to the homeless and the incarcerated.

Interested persons please contact Pastor Billy Houze, who chairs this part of our ministry. Please contact: 1st Baptist Church of Lawndale, Lawndale, NC, (704) 538-9429.

I'm asking Ushers and Nurses from our GBSC Convention to serve for the Evangelism Conference all three nights.

Finally, I'm asking each church to represent with \$250.00. This will entitle up to ten messengers to attend. We are attempting to encourage each church to send their Pastors, Associate Ministers, Evangelism Teams and Missionary Departments to the Conference.

We need your Support!

Because of Calvary,
Pastor Robert L. McGowens, Sr., GBSC Evangelism Ministry Chairma
Rev. Anthonette Wright, GBSC Evangelism Ministry Recording Secretary
Pastor Bobby Houze, GBSC Evangelism Ministry Vice Chairman ■

www.gbsc.org

REGISTRATION AND REPRESENTATION FORM

EVANGELISM

ANNUAL STATEWIDE CONFERENCE • APRIL 11-12, 2003

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REV. ROBERT MCGOWEN, EVANGELISM CHAIRMAN

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"Only What We Do for Christ . . ."

By Executive Secretary-Treasurer Brodie

Only What We Do For Christ Will Last

You may build great ca-the-drals large or



Dr. Priscilla Brodie

be im-press'd by your great name,
Soon the glo-ries of this life will all be
past,
But on-ly what you do for Christ will last.

Tho' your ar-mies may con-trol each
hem-i-sphere,
And your or-bits out in space cause man
to cheer,

small,
You can build
sky scrap-ers
grand and tall,
You may con-
quer all the fail-
ures of the past,
But on-ly what
you do for
Christ will last.

You may seek
earth-ly pow-er
and fame,
The world might

The world might

Your sci-en-tif-ic knowledge may be vast,
But on-ly what you do for Christ will last.

Tho' your songs and prayers are heard
and praised by man,
They've no mean-ing un-less you've been
born a-gain,
Sin-ner, heed these words, don't let this
har-vest pass,
For on-ly what you do for Christ will last.

Chorus

Re-mem-ber on-ly what you do for Christ
will last;
Re-mem-ber on-ly what you do for Christ
will last;
On-ly what you do for Him will be count-
ed at the end,
On-ly what you do for Christ will last!
On-ly what you do for Christ,
On-ly what you do for Christ will last!
—Raymond Raspberry

In sharing in the theme of the GBSC:
"To Serve The Present Age", the
Woman's Convention focuses on "Serving
The Present Age: Transforming The
Family Through Christian Values/Ethics".

The above song reminds us only what
we do for Christ will last. Therefore, as
we serve the present age (and yet genera-
tions unborn) may we consult with God
and be led by the Holy Spirit in all we do.
In light of these words then we look for-
ward to planning for and implementing
some of our ministries as listed.



Dr. Julias McDonald

those who have not pre-registered.
Registration is \$6.00 and pre-regis-
tration is \$5.00. Please secure a pre-

REMINDERS

The State-Wide Leaders' Workshop will convene for all departments at the Raleigh Civic Center on Saturday, April 5, 2003. The session begins at 9:00 a.m. However, registration begins at 8:00 a.m. for

registration form from the office and return it with the funds by March 15, 2003. You may duplicate forms.

2. **The Ministers Wives/Widows' Retreat** is scheduled for Friday – Sunday, May 23rd – 25th, 2003. All Ministers' Wives/Widows are invited. Please see the brochure on this page for the information.

The Leadership Training Conference will convene the week of June 2 – 6, 2003 at the Baptist Assembly, Laurel Hill. Please begin contacting the office for forms the last week in March and return by May 12, 2003.

The Youth Bible Camp will be held June 8 – 13, 2003 (Week 1); June 15 – 20, 2003 (Week 2); June 22 – 27, 2003 (Week 3). Campers are received on a first-come basis. Please begin contacting the office for forms the last week of March.

Self-Denial Envelopes can be secured from the office. Funds should be sent to the

See BRODIE, Page 15

GBSC Is Available To Work With Churches

By Dr. Archie D. Logan Jr.

Greetings! The General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina is available to work with your church during the time you do not have a Pastor. We will work with the Deacons and other officers to provide guidance as you search for a new pastor to lead your church.

Some of the things we offer:

- We have ordained Baptist ministers available to assist the Deacons in carrying out the Church Ordinances: Lord Supper and Baptism.
- We have ordained clergy who can serve as an "Interim Minister" in your church.
- Some suggested workshops:
 - ✓ How To Select An Interim Pastor?
 - ✓ How To Call A Pastor?
 - ✓ How Much Should We Pay Our Pastor?
 - ✓ Church Administration
 - ✓ How To Plan A Church Budget
 - ✓ Effective Bible Study
 - ✓ Evangelism Classes
 - ✓ Special Training For Deacons/Trustees
 - ✓ Christian Education Planning
 - ✓ Church Development
 - ✓ Please call if you are interested in any of these services!
 - ✓ 1-800-639-GBSC (4272)



Dr. Delores Smith
Luncheon Speaker



Mrs. Bronnie Daniels
Missions Award

International Luncheon & Missions Award
Friday, March 28 - 1 pm
Experience International Cuisine!

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City/State/Zip _____

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|--|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Early Conference Registration Through March 18, 2003 | \$15.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conference Registration After March 18, 2003 | \$20.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Luncheon | \$15.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth (Up to 12 years)
(No Charge for the Youth Rally on Saturday) | \$ 5.00 |

Total: _____

Group Rate: Missionary groups of 20 or more - \$13 per person.
(Registration prior to March 18th)

There are no partial registration fees. The above amounts apply to all aspects of the conference whether attending one or all offered sessions.
The cost of attending the Luncheon is an additional \$15.00

Please make checks payable to: Union Baptist Church

☐ Check No. _____

☐ Cash

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The Wingate Hotel
125 S. Main Street
Winston-Salem, NC
336/714-2800
Room Rate: \$60

Adams Mark Hotel
425 N. Cherry Street
Winston-Salem, NC
336/721-2255
Room Rate: \$85
Contact: Peggy Munnell

For Information
Call the Church
Office:
336/724-9305
or visit the
website:
unionbaptistwsnc.org

A percentage of the proceeds will support local, state and international missions.

"Standing Firm with God's Guidance for Success" District III Ushers Motto

By Forest M. Eaves, President

The ushers of District Three held their annual Fellowship Banquet on Saturday, November 16th, at the University Park Baptist Church, Charlotte.



Forest Eaves

The weather was a cold, wet rainy evening, with limited visibility, but it did not seem to matter or hinder the estimated 200 attendants to this annual event.

The banquet services began with a brief devotion and

greeting from the newly elected State President, Bro. Forest M. Eaves, Jr. President Eaves thanked everyone for coming and encouraged all the ushers to attend the upcoming one-day session.

Host church, University Park, extended a warm welcome and the Praise Team of Mt. Moriah, Matthews, NC, rendered the soulful, spiritual music for the evening.

What and who is District Three was defined and explained by 1st Vice President, Bro. Saylor Mattison, stating that District Three ushers are best in the State of North Carolina and are affiliated with the General Baptist State Associations (Ebenezer, Gaston County, Gold Hill, Guiding Light, Lane Creek, Mecklenburg General, Mount Peace, Rising Star and Stanly County). The ushers are trained to work in their churches, exchange ideas, and to fellowship together. Ushering must be efficient, and in order to be efficient, ushers must train.

The memorial tribute was led by Sisters Sarah Carruthers and Phadonia Anthony as they lit candles, offered a prayer and read a scripture in memory of the tireless service of all deceased ushers, and in doing so, they encouraged us to let

our hearts not be troubled.

Dr. C. V. Owens, pastor of First Mt. Zion, Charlotte, NC, and his ushers led us into grace. We dined on a wonderful meal of fried and baked chicken, ham, potato salad, string beans, assorted cakes, tea and lemonade – all thanks to the very fine caterers, Bro. Billy and Sis. Mattie Craig, owners of Mattie's Vending.

Reverend Donnie Garriss, pastor of Antioch Baptist Church, Charlotte, NC, delivered the dynamic message, "God's Guidance Through The Valley", taken from the 23rd Psalm.

He began his message with the challenging questions: Why do we have to go through what we go through? and Why do we have some of the troubles, trials, tears and efforts we have? Because we put ourselves through these things – there is blame. Beyond blame, how do we stand firm? What is guidance and who is doing it? God wants to be our guide, not our co-guide. He chooses the path He wants us to travel. We are to stay close

and follow wherever He goes. There are so many risks, dangers and threats, but we must stand firm. God has many places to which He guides us. His guidance is not always pleasant. We end up in the valley because we are following Him. Following the Lord is not always a mountaintop experience. As we go through the valley, we ought to stay firm because it is for our good, growth, and His glory. The Shepherd is committed to guiding us through the valley. The Lord will guide you, lead you and see you through.

The message was received with a standing ovation.

The St. Paul Baptist Church ushers were introduced and 16 door prizes were presented to some happy recipients.

Remarks were given and the benediction was announced, thus concluding the Annual Fellowship Banquet of the District Three Ushers.

State Ushers President is Forest M. Eaves, 801 Walnut Avenue, Charlotte, NC 28208-4541.

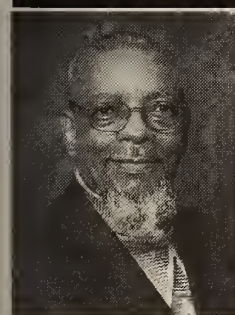
LAYMEN'S LEAGUE NEWS

You Can Have Good Judgment

Submitted by Deacon John Gladden

"Give ear, and hear MY voice." Isaiah 28:23

You have known people whose problems stemmed mainly from their lack of



Deacon John Gladden

good judgment.

In 1st Corinthians 2:16, our Bible states, "We have the Mind of Christ." Because all of us have the Mind of Christ in us, we have the capacity for wisdom and good judgment. But this capacity

needs to be invoked and expressed.

Pray, today, aloud, "I express the positive power of the Christ Mind in wisdom, love, and good judgment."

Today stay in tune with the Christ Mind.

If you are in doubt about some matter, if you are undecided as to whether some course of action is the right one, open yourself to the Christ direction. Christ will inspire you to use good judgment. Christ will give you the wisdom to refrain from needless or unthinking action or reaction. As you express the positive

power of the Christ Mind, you'll find it easy to follow a course of action that leads to happy results, and contributes to your good and to the good of those around you.

In any set of circumstances, in any situation, there is always a way which is the easiest, most direct way to take. By turning to God for inspiration and guidance, you will discover the correct course of action.

When you have a decision to make, you quiet your mind and heart and seek God. You listen within yourself for the still, small voice of inspiration, knowing that God's way will be perfect and right.

No ignorance, doubt, or misunderstanding can withstand the clear shining light of God's Truth. You let go of fear, anxiety, and concern that would block God's clear voice of guidance in you. You let God inspire you to greater achievement, and higher ideals. God gives you clear understanding and right decision-making power. You are guided by God to follow the course that is right and wise, rather than the course which may merely seem expedient.

You are always led aright through Divine inspiration.

In the silence of prayer, you gain the inspiration of the Almighty. You listen and you hear and your way is clear.

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Dear Christian Leader and Friends,

It is my hope that I will be a help to you in your next building project. Although you may not have a plan that exactly fits your needs, I may help you find a starting point to develop your own plan.

I have built and designed more than 45 churches in my 55 years of general contracting.

Church building should be compatible with their neighborhoods. The quality of construction, design, and landscaping should create a meaningful setting which is an inspiration to its members and the community.

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The second step is providing a master plan of your entire church property and renderings or models of the proposed buildings.

The third step is preparing your construction drawings which include:

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3. Design plans
4. Structural design
5. Energy saving heating and cooling
6. Specifications (in laypersons language)

I have found that coordinating all of these design phases through one firm avoids costly delays, misunderstanding and mistakes during constructions.

There are many phases in church planning and design which require a specialist in that field. When you start your next building program, I hope you will give me a call.

At Your Service,
Thomas L. Jones

Submitted By Mrs. Diane Newell,
President Congress of Christian Education

The James F. Wertz Oratorical Contest is divided into several phases. The contest will begin at your local church and proceed to the District Level (Association) and end with a contest at the State Level. The winner from the Senior Division ultimately goes to the National Level.



Diane
Newell

❖ Contestants are representatives of Associations, NOT Churches. Therefore, all contestants must be affiliated with an Association.
❖ The Association is

allowed one (1) representative for each category.

QUALIFICATION FOR CONTESTANTS

The contest is open to all young people grades 6th to 12th in the year that the contest is being held. Example: a contestant must be entering the 6th grade as of July 1, 2003. Seniors who are graduating from High School as of July 1, 2003 are not eligible.

Each contestant must present one typewritten (computer written) copy of their speech to the Director no later than the date specified on the application.

Students entering the contest that have been called into Ministry may participate with the understanding that their speech must be an oration, not a sermon or sermonette.

Other qualifications are governed by your local district.

CONTEST RULES

All contestants must speak on the official topics presented for their category. Not speaking on an official topic will result in a penalty. The penalty is disqualification.

Each contestant shall prepare his or her own speech. However, the contestant may receive advice in the preparation of the speech.

All contestants must state the official topic of their speech first. Failure to do so will result in a penalty. The

James F. Wertz Oratorical Contest General Baptist State Convention

penalty is 3 points.

The use of props, special costumes or clothing or the use of prompters will not be permitted. Bible, notes, papers or anything that can be construed as a prop will not be taken to the podium by the contestant. Penalty is disqualification.

No reference may be made that might identify the contestant, his or her family or the specific geographical or political area from which he/she originates. Maximum penalty may be 5 points as decided by the Judge.

The time allowed will not be over or under the specified length for each category. Should the time be over or under the length, a penalty of 3 points will be assessed.

CATEGORY/DIVISION / TIME

- Preparatory
3-4 minutes
- Junior
4-5 minutes
- Senior
4-5 minutes

Appropriate Dress is a must. Remember that you are being judged on your appearance as well as your overall presentation. Make a good first impression!

The Judges have the final decision over your presentation. (Not your coach, parents or your friends.)

We try at all times to get three judges, however in the event one of the judges fails to show, we will continue the contest with the remaining judges. Our plans are to have three judges and one back-up.

GENERAL RULES

Spectators may not enter or leave the audience while a contestant is speaking. Please alert your congregation and friends to this fact if you are one of the contestants. This rule will be strictly adhered to; movement creates distraction for the contestant.

Please ensure that you have turned off all cellular phones and beepers. Please refrain from opening mints or candy during a presentation.

Please do not applaud until all participants in each division have finished.

Each contest shall have three judges and two timekeepers.

The judges cannot be acquainted with the contestants.

The judges and timekeepers will not be identified at the time of the contest or by advance publicity. The judges will be identified only after the last oration has been presented for the category that they are judging or in the event the same judges are used throughout, they will be introduced after the last category.

During the time of the contest, the judges and timekeepers shall each be in different locations within the room.

Each judge will render a final decision on all contestants without consultation with other judges or any other person. Each judge and timekeeper must sign his/her official score sheet.

PENALTIES AND PENALTY EXPLANATIONS

The following penalties have been established to create an equitable opportunity for all contestants:

SELF IDENTIFICATION. No oration or part of an oration may be used that positively identifies the contestant or identifies his or her specific geographical origin such as state or province or smaller geographical or political location (i.e. Pastor Smith, Calvary Chapel, school, parent's name, etc.). Maximum penalty may be five (5) points as determined by the individual judge. This is a judgmental call based on the judge's interpretation.

TIME PENALTIES. The time limit for orations shall not be under or over the time specified for the contestant's category.

Senior Division – Four (4) minutes but no more than five (5) minutes are allowed for each contestant's oration. If the speech is LESS than four (4) minutes OR over five (5) minutes, the contestant will be penalized five (5) points.

Junior Division – Four (4) minutes but no more than five (5) minutes are allowed for each contestant's oration. If the speech is LESS than four (4) minutes OR over five (5) minutes, the contestant will be penalized five (5) points.

Preparatory Division – Three (3) minutes but no more than four (4) min-

utes are allowed for each contestant's oration. If the speech is LESS than three (3) minutes OR over four (4) minutes, the contestant will be penalized five (5) points.

FAILURE TO ANNOUNCE SUBJECT/TOPIC AT THE BEGINNING. All contestants must express the official title at the very beginning of his/her speech. The order of presentation is shown below:

- Subject/Topic (My topic is "Positive Thinking") or Positive Thinking
- Greetings
- Speech

The penalty for failure to announce topic/subject at the beginning of the oration is three (3) points.

USE OF PROPS, COSTUMES, ETC. When the contestant leaves the preparation room for the auditorium, they are not allowed to have anything that would be construed as a prop. Props include: The Bible, notes, note cards, and papers, etc. The penalty is disqualification.

NOT SPEAKING ON OFFICIAL TOPICS. The Congress of Christian Education provides topics that are to be used in each category. These are the official topics for the contestants. Failure to speak on one of the official topics is disqualification.

At no time will a contestant or judge discuss the contestant's scores. The results of a judge's decision will be kept confidential.

The Judges will have a score sheet and a sheet for additional comments. The purpose of these comments is to help and/or enhance the contestants in future endeavors.

Selection of winners will be based on the judge's score and any penalty points that the contestant may have received.

The Director and Assistant Director will conduct a drawing prior to the beginning of the contest, with all contestants present, for the speaking order.

Please keep in mind that you were created in the image of God. You are a good and talented person and in God's eyes, everyone is a winner!

God Bless You!

ORATIONS VS SERMONS. The title implies that this is the James F. Wertz Oratorical Contest. Not the James F. Wertz Sermon Contest. Therefore, any speech presented as a Sermon is not acceptable. The penalty is disqualification. Judges will be instructed in this matter. There is a distinct distinction between the two, when delivered.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Oratorical Contest 2003

1. Applicants are to complete application with all of the required information. Applications not completely filled out will not be accepted.

2. Please ensure that all REQUIRED signatures are on the form.

3. Completed applications: THE DEADLINE DATE IS JUNE 21, 2003. APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED ON SITE!

4. Any applications received after this date will not be accepted. It is not our intention to make this an issue; however, it is not fair to Associations who submitted their paperwork on time.

5. PLEASE DO NOT MAIL APPLICATIONS AND SPEECHES TO THE GBSC HEADQUARTERS BUILDING. MAIL THEM TO THE ADDRESS INDICATED ON THE FORM. It is YOUR responsibility to follow-up with me to verify that I did receive your application and speech by the required deadline!

6. Any problems that you encounter, any questions that you may have, please feel free to make contact with one of the persons listed below. *We can't help you unless we know you need help. We will do our best to assist you in any way that we can!*

Oratorical Director
Assistant Oratorical Director
Alberta H. Moore
Constance G. Finch
(910) 424-8430 (office)
(919) 834-7108 (home)
(910) 424-2104 (fax)
(919) 834-7106 (fax)
email: amoore@lewischapel.org
email: mcnair97@bellsouth.net
MOALH@AOL.COM

7. IT IS A REQUIREMENT THAT WE HAVE A COPY OF THE CONTESTANT'S SPEECH PRIOR TO THE CONTESTANT SPEAKING.

8. Please help us help you!!!

2003 ORATORICAL TOPICS

Preparatory Division - 6th, 7th, 8th grade as of July 1, 2003

1. Wait God! I Didn't Mean It
2. What If?
3. Persistence Pays
4. Right from Wrong
5. But My Friends Do It!
6. The Courage to say no
7. God Is Good
8. Keep Your Eyes on the Prize
9. Be Careful! What You Say
10. Letting My Little Light Shine

Junior Division - 9th, 10th, 11th grade of July 1, 2003

1. Truth Makes a Difference
2. It's What's Inside That Counts
3. The Question Is...
4. The Lord Is My Rock

5. Faith
6. A Good Friend Is...
7. Wait for the Lord
8. No Greater Love
9. Is He Yours?
10. Its a Real Good Thang!

Senior Division - Rising High School Seniors as of July 1, 2003

1. My Help Comes From The Lord
2. The Stoplights of Life
3. Risky Business
4. What color is Love?
5. Building on a Solid Foundation
6. God Holds The Future
7. Lift Up Jesus
8. Whose World Is It Anyway?

9. There Is Hope
10. It's Gonna Be A Brighter Day
11. When Friends and Faith Disagree

At no time will a contestant or judge discuss the contestant's scores. The results of a judge's decision will be kept confidential.

The Judges will have a score sheet and a sheet for additional comments. The purpose of these comments is to help and/or enhance the contestants in future endeavors.

Selection of winners will be based on the judge's score and any penalty points that the contestant may have received.

The Director and Assistant Director

will conduct a drawing prior to the beginning of the contest, with all contestants present, for the speaking order.

Please keep in mind that you were created in the image of God. You are a good and talented person and in God's eyes, everyone is a winner!

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JAMES F. WERTZ ORATORICAL CONTEST

Congress of Christian Education of the General Baptist State Convention of NC, Inc.

Speech (Oratorical) Contest Entry Form

(Contestants who have been declared winners in their ASSOCIATIONS should complete this form)

Name of Contestant: _____ ☐ M ☐ F

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone () _____

Name of Church _____

Pastor's Name _____

Association Representing _____

Moderator's Name _____

List Prior Contest In Which You Have Participated In:

Local Church _____ Association _____

Other _____ Topic _____

Division _____ Your Grade As Of July 1, 2003 _____

Signature of Sunday School Superintendent

Signature of District President

Please mail application and a COPY OF SPEECH to:

Alberta H. Moore, 5414A Raeford Rd., Fayetteville, NC 28304, or fax to (910) 424-2194. Application deadline date is June 21, 2003.

*Instructions for applications and Oratorical Topics listed in attached article.

A Contemporary History Maker

By Dr. Jasper P. Reed
GBSC Historian

We, for the most part, have adopted the wait and see attitude when it comes to evaluating one's life contributions.



Dr. Jasper
Reed

Even though we freely quote the adage, "Give me my flowers while I yet live," we wait until after death to give praise and honor to our leaders. This Historian would like to depart from past practices and do an article on a contemporary history maker while we yet have time to praise him for his many contributions. General Baptist State

Convention is blessed to have six Past-Presidents with us who did and still are making noted contributions.

This month's historical figure first impacted my life when he was a guest of the Middle District Missionary Baptist Association. He came to help us honor our Moderator of many years. His decorum spoke volumes about his understanding of the call placed on his life by the God he serves. As I observed him subsequent to that event I have found him to be the same as he was that night. He is a committed Disciple and a profound steward of God's resources of time, talents, and tithes. When he said here am I to the Lord, who called him, he was ready to go then. His response time even today is something to be praised. I surmise that he has a book somewhere in him that awaits an outlet.

The Reverend E. Burns Turner, the venerable Past-President of GBSC, pres-

ent Moderator of the Lumber River Missionary Baptist Association, and the present Pastor Par Excellence of the First Baptist Church of Lumberton is our subject. When asked to participate in the series he responded in four days with all the requested information. Probably one of the tallest of the group he is a husband, father, grandfather, and brother. He heads a clan that is composed of a wife, two daughters, two sons-in-law, five grandchildren, and two sisters. He was well prepared for the multifaceted role of President and other important positions he held. He boasts of three degrees from Shaw University among his academic claims.

President Turner listed four major initiatives that made up the core of his platform while seeking the office. The Lord blessed him to address each of them. While he was contemplating future administrative efforts The Lord had something for him to do. Just as the Lord did in Deuteronomy 1:6-8, He invaded President Turner's comfort zone and dispatched him on a journey. He told him not to linger where he was but to move on to where He, the Lord, had

set before him. This unexpected journey presented a major challenge to President Turner and ultimately consumed an inordinate amount of time and energy. This journey provided him the opportunity to review many times the roles each of us play in the life of the convention. Come with me as we go to the Book of Daniel 6:1b-3. Watch the Hand of God as it works to help the people of Israel re-establish their lives. One of the first responsibilities of Darius and ultimately of President Turner is to re-organize the people. The Lord knows that without organization chaos will be the order of the day. In other words before President Turner continued with his program he had to fulfill God's program for the convention. His attempt to re-organize the convention created friction between him and some other administrators per President Turner. They probably resented his innovative proposals. After these administrators tried unsuccessfully to thwart his programs they sought other ways to isolate him and to make him ineffective. When all their motives

See MAKER, Page 11

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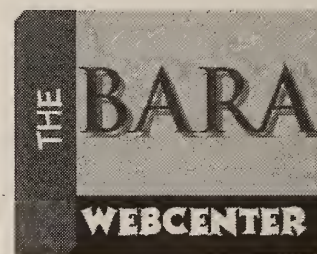
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HISTORY, Cont'd From Page 10

failed it did not stop them from trying, friction was still present. However when God makes the plans the outcome is assured. Because God sent him on this journey he was able to do the things that were dear in the sight of God. He was able to serve and bring new life into the Ushers Convention, build a cottage at the J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly, lead GBSC to revise and adopt a new constitution, and help Shaw University, one of GBSC Objectives, to remain solvent during a period of serious financial need.

Did he retire when he left the Presidency? No. He is still the Pastor of First Baptist, Lumberton, and is still the Moderator of Lumber River Baptist Association. Beyond these he is a county commissioner of Robeson County, and is actively involved in planning to build a new Church. In Proverbs 27:17, Solomon said iron sharpen iron. That is to say that those attributes and experiences that sustained President Turner ought to be passed on to the next administration and generation so that God can use them to continue to re-organize the people for His service. This kind of history we need to applaud. ■

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The Wise and Foolish Virgins

By Dolores Griffey

Jesus told a story about the kingdom of heaven that relates to His second coming when He is to return for His bride which is known as His Church. There were ten



Dolores Griffey

young women whom Jesus described as virgins, or pure, undefiled young ladies, who took oil lanterns into the night to await the coming of the bridegroom. They all were to participate in the wedding ceremonies and were very happy to be included in the wonderful festivities that were about to occur. They had heard about the wedding, which was to be the grandest that ever had occurred in the whole world. The splendor of the arrangements would be breathtaking. The ceremony and the feast were to be beyond imagination. This was to be the most magnificent event of all time.

Five of the young ladies, considering that the bridegroom might not come early in the evening, took extra oil in containers so that their lamps would not go out. The

other five who were foolish took only the oil that already was in their lamps.

The bridegroom was delayed in his coming and so the ten young ladies fell asleep while they were waiting. At midnight an advance messenger rode up to the ten ladies and called, "Look! The bridegroom is coming, go out to meet him!"

All of the young ladies arose and began to trim their wicks in their lanterns. The five foolish young ladies cried in dismay, "Look! We are running out of oil and our lamps are flickering. Please give us some of your oil so that our lights will not go out."

The five wise young ladies answered, "No. We are sorry, but if we share our oil with you there will not be enough oil for our own lamps. If we share with you we will miss the bridegroom and not be able to join the wedding party ourselves. We cannot give you part of our oil."

The five foolish young ladies ran back into the village to buy oil for their lamps so that they could join the wedding party. While they were gone the Bridegroom came and the five wise young ladies joined him and went to the wedding. After they had entered the wedding pavilion the door was shut so that no more people could enter.

After a while the five foolish young ladies came and pounded on the pavilion

door, calling, "Please let us in to the wedding. We are supposed to be in the wedding party!"

Nevertheless the bridegroom answered, "You knew that I was coming and that you were supposed to wait for me with your lamps trimmed and full of oil. I am sorry, no people can enter into the wedding pavilion because the door is closed and locked." The five foolish young ladies were extremely sorry and went away weeping.

Jesus ended this story with the admonition for all believers at all times to be prepared for His coming. He urged them at all times to be watching in anticipation for His second coming if we are to enter into His wedding with His bride, from among the Church of believers.

Jesus was pointing out that being part of His church depended not only on living a righteous life in oneself but that it is necessary to have the salvation provided through His sacrifice on Calvary through faith in the name of Jesus. It is necessary to be filled with His Holy Spirit, which is equated in the Bible as the oil of the Spirit, I Sam 16:13, Exodus 31:11, Acts 10:38.

Jesus indicated in other Scriptures, such as Matthew 24th chapter, that we could anticipate the general time for His return for His Bride by observing events that had been predicted in the Scriptures as necessary to have occurred before His second coming. He compared that with our

ability to predict that summer is near because we observe the changes that happen during springtime. Because of the predictions made in the Scriptures it appears that the season or time for the return of Jesus for His bride could occur in the very near future. Like the five wise virgins, we should be spiritually ready for His return at any time, day or night. To be left behind will be a tragic loss. To be ready we need to confess all of our sins or mistakes to God as we become aware that we have failed to fulfill God's will in our lives and to ask forgiveness because of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. We then need to ask God to lead us by His Holy Spirit in all of our ways.

Key Concepts

Jesus is coming again as the bridegroom of His Church, His Bride.

To be included in the bridal party we need to be waiting and watching in anticipation of Jesus' return.

We need to have plenty of oil for our "lamps" or souls so that we are ready for Him. The oil is known as the anointing of the Holy Spirit in our souls.

We need to be prepared for His return at all times, watching and waiting and our souls filled with the oil of His anointing Spirit.

GERONTOLOGY

Health

Submitted by Dr. Elbert Lee

Health is a central factor in everyone's life. Most people are fortunate enough to be able to take good health for granted. However, health affects life satisfaction,



Dr. Elbert Lee

participation in most social roles, and the way we are treated by others. It would be difficult to overstate the importance of good health for a successful and satisfying life. In later life, declining health cuts across all social, political, and economic lines. Health becomes a major influence on participation in the family, the job, the community, and in leisure pursuits, and health needs absorb a larger amount and proportion of older people's incomes as they grow older. In fact, a large proportion of the medical industry's facilities and services are geared toward meeting the needs of people with disease and infirmities that are

most common in old age.

Health is obviously a major influence on the older person's situation. Social gerontology is therefore concerned with the continuum of health all the way from good to bad, with programs for health improvement and rehabilitation, and with the importance of health to the life situations of older people.

The term health is complex and difficult to define. It refers not merely to the absence of disease or disability, but also to more positive things, such as mental, physical, and social well-being. It is most useful to look at health as a continuum. At the one end is complete social, physical, and mental well-being and at the other end is death.

Ideally, good health would be measured in terms of social, physical and mental well-being, but since these conditions are very difficult to measure, good health is operationally defined as the absence of disease or infirmity. This operational definition is placed just short of the good health pole of the continuum to indicate that it falls short of being a true indicator of good health.

A condition is defined as a departure from physical or mental well-being. It has

its onset when the condition is first noticed either by the individual or by a physician. Conditions obviously vary in many important ways.

A Letter of Gratitude

Dear Co-Laborers in Christ:

Grace and peace in Christ Jesus to you and your family from your brothers and sisters of the Liberia Baptist Theological Seminary!

On behalf of our Seminary's Community of Faith, I extend heartfelt thanks and appreciation to you for prayer-

fully supporting your Pastor, Dr. Elbert Lee, Jr., in his vision and mission to Liberia. The Seminary has benefited from his messages and ministry of presence.

Our Community of Faith prayerfully looks forward to an ongoing shared vision in cross-cultural mission with you. We also look forward to Dr. Lee and other missionaries from your church and community to serve as short term missionaries.

May the love and presence of Christ guide you today and always.

Sincerely,
Dr. Lincoln S. Brownell, Jr.
Liberia Baptist Theological Seminary

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Modern Motives for Tithing

By Dr. A. T. Griffey, III, Statistician

Text: "and this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house: and all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee" (Genesis 28:22)



Dr. A. T. Griffey, III

Scarcely anything is more important than the Christian's motive. A motive is that which moves. What the main spring is to a watch or the motor is to an automobile, so the Christian's motive is to his work and wor-

ship. A proper motive is vital in the matter of our giving. The motive behind the gift determines the real worth of the gift. It would be wonderful if the motives behind all that we do in the work of God was a pure love for Christ. Such is not the case and never has been. A study of the Bible reveals that God has appealed to many motives in order to stimulate His children to be and to do that which was right. If we will examine our hearts closely we will discover that mingled motives are behind most of our actions.

In nearly every church there is a group of members who have committed themselves to the practice of tithing year in and year out. They contribute one-tenth of their income to the Lord through their church. A consideration of the motives that lead them to do this can be both informative and challenging.

First, many Christians are faithful tithers because of a desire to acknowledge God's ownership of all things. Psalms 24:1 states, "The earth is the LORD's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein." Many sincerely

believe that the tithe is rent which they pay to the divine Landowner for the use of that which belongs to Him. Leviticus 27:30 states, "And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the LORD's: it is holy unto the LORD."

Secondly, many Christians tithe because they desire the blessings promised to the tither, such as found in Malachi 3:10, "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it." It should be recognized that this is a selfish motive. If this is the only motive, it is possible that the tither will not continue his habit for a great length of time.

Thousands will bear a sincere testimony to the effect that God blesses the tither materially. They have found it much easier to meet their financial obligations with nine-tenths of their possessions plus His leadership and guidance. The Bible clearly teaches that we rob ourselves when we are guilty of robbing God of our tithes and offerings. (Mal. 3:9) "Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation." The practice of tithing does not impoverish. Tithing leaves enough for the individual or family to meet their financial needs. It costs more not to tithe than it does to tithe. One's capacity to receive God's blessings is determined in a large degree by his willingness to be a giver.

Thirdly, some Christians tithe for the personal satisfaction of having an investment in the most important enterprise on earth (Matthew 28:18-20). (19) - "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing

them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:" (20) - "Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen." Jesus Christ was God's great Messenger to the world. He communicated to people the message of God's love.

Christ committed to His church the task of carrying the message of salvation to every part of the world. While the individual Christian is to bear his own personal testimony with his life and his lips, the practice of tithing is considered to be the divinely appointed financial plan by which he helps meet the material needs of advancing the kingdom of God on earth.

Tithing links us with God in His great world-wide program of redemption. Through our tithes and offerings we have a part in the saving of the lost world beyond the circle of our own personal witnessing. Tithing puts each of us in touch with the whole world.

Fourthly, tithing makes the growth of personal faith possible. An increase of faith in all of the promises of God is one of the rich fruits of the practice of tithing. All of us agree that a greater faith in God is indeed a rich blessing. Many have discovered that when they begin to trust God with their money they found it easier to trust God in other areas of life. The practice of tithing permits God to prove His divine trustworthiness. God honors His promises. The Bible is a book of promises and the Christian's faith will be greater when these promises are discovered and claimed by faith.

Fifthly, a fresh sense of reality and vitality in worship has been discovered by those who tithe. Genuine worship is an experience in which we give all that we have to God and at the same time we receive what God has for us. One cannot be a mere spectator and genuinely worship. If we would receive all that God is and has for us we must give of our self and of our substance to Him. When Jesus warned against the perils of laying up treasures on earth and encouraged His disciples rather to lay up treasures in

heaven, His primary purpose was to assist them in worshiping only Him who is worthy of worship. He concluded by saying, "For where your treasure is there will your heart be also." A man's interest follows his dollars. We tie our hearts to our investments. Worship is vital and real only when we are investing in the kingdom of God.

Also many Christians tithe in order to permit God to be a real partner with them in their economic life. By recognizing the ownership of God and the stewardship of man, people have found a partial cure for the cancer of covetousness. We live in a materialistic world that measures success by a materialistic standard.

The Christian is under constant pressure to live only for things materialistic. To believe that real life is to be found in material things is to be guilty of covetousness and idolatry. To be genuinely Christian we must somehow let God into our economic life and give us guidance as we make money, as we spend money, as we save money, and as we give money. Our God is just as concerned about how we make our living as He is in what we do during worship on Sunday evening.

Lastly, many Christians are tithing because tithing is a tangible way in which they can prove their love for the Lord. God loved us and gave His Son for us. Genuine love always seeks to find a way by which it can properly express itself. Words which express affection are shallow and cheap if appropriate deeds do not verify their truthfulness. We need to sing of our love for the Lord but we also need to prove our love in a significant way.

Conclusion. What is your motive for giving? Most likely you are controlled by mingled motives. Jesus believed that there was more happiness, more joy, more adventure, more excitement, more satisfaction to be found in a life of giving than could possibly be found in a life dedicated to receiving and having.

Jesus believed this to the extent that He gave Himself utterly and completely for us. We will discover the way of gladness and joy when we follow His example and live in order to be a giver rather than a receiver. To begin the practice of tithing is to take a major step in that direction. ■

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Recognizing the Link Can Save Your Life Diabetes and Heart Disease

By Dr. Anita Holmes.

The following article was published in the September/October 2002 issue of *Closing the Gap*, a newsletter of the



Dr. Anita Holmes

mail to info@omhrc.gov or writing to OMHRC, P. O. Box 37337, Washington, D.C. 20013.

The Office of Health and Human Services continues to expand its Diabetes Education and Outreach Initiative, a demonstration project with funding from NC Diabetes Prevention and Control Branch.

Last spring, just after her 46th birthday, Adrean Grant* found out that she had type 2 diabetes. At that time, she was symptomatic and visiting her doctor for a routine physical exam. Yet, as she turned to leave the office, she learned that her life would never be the same.

"While I was at the doctor, they asked me for a urine sample – which they've always done. I was on my way out the door, and the nurse called me back and said that my urine sample indicated that I had a great deal of sugar in my urine," said Grant. That, coupled with a finger prick, confirmed a diagnosis that she knew little about. She was completely unaware of even being at risk.

As an African American woman over 45, battling severe sleep apnea, managing high cholesterol, and a tad bit overweight – Grant had absolutely no idea she was actually a ticking time bomb. "I've been managing high cholesterol for several years, and didn't know that my cholesterol level placed me at risk for diabetes," she said.

Yet, Grant possessed nearly all of the risk factors associated with type 2 diabetes – her age, being overweight and having high cholesterol. The connection between her cholesterol level being a risk factor for both diabetes and heart disease, and cardiovascular disease being a major complication that can arise in diabetics was never discussed.

"When I was diagnosed with diabetes, I was given medication and was told to

come back in two weeks. I was also referred to a dietician, and given a glucometer so that I could test my blood sugar every day – but that was it," said Grant. "Complications that I know about now, like heart disease and stroke, were never mentioned."

Making the Connection

Cardiovascular disease poses the greatest threat to people with diabetes, killing 75 percent of all diabetics.

Traditionally, diabetes treatment has focused on the management of blood glucose. However, recent studies now show that managing blood pressure and cholesterol, in addition to controlling blood glucose levels, can save the lives of thousands of people with diabetes by preventing heart disease.

Many diabetes patients do not know they are at risk for cardiovascular disease, and that this risk can actually be reduced through better management and control of diabetes. High blood pressure and lipid abnormalities are among the conditions that contribute to an increased risk of cardiovascular disease. The majority of people with diabetes present with at least one of these conditions.

Diabetes tends to lower "good" HDL cholesterol, and raise both "bad" LDL cholesterol and triglyceride levels, increasing the risk of heart disease and stroke. Obesity, a condition that afflicts 80 percent of people with diabetes, is another risk factor for developing cardiovascular disease. In addition, physical inactivity and smoking dramatically increase the risk of cardiovascular disease.

This means that people with diabetes are two to four times more likely to have a stroke or heart attack than are people without diabetes. Moreover, because diabetes can cause severe nerve damage to the heart, diabetics often experience painless heart attacks that are harder to diagnose and more likely to be fatal. People with diabetes are more likely to die from a second heart attack and are more likely than those without the disease to have a second cardiovascular event.

According to a study published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* (1999), deaths from heart disease in the general population have shown a marked decrease, but deaths from heart disease in women with diabetes have increased 23 percent. Deaths from heart disease in diabetic men have decreased by only 13 percent, compared to a 36 percent decrease in men without the disease.

Cardiovascular disease is not only the deadliest complication of diabetes, but also the most expensive. In 1999, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that over \$7 billion of

the \$44.1 billion in annual costs associated with diabetes went towards treating cardiovascular disease.

Increasing Awareness

There are several things people with diabetes can do to keep their disease under control, and to prevent cardiovascular disease. In fact, several organizations have stepped up to the plate to educate diabetics on how to prevent heart disease and other related complications.

The National Diabetes Education Program partnered with the American Diabetes Association and launched a comprehensive consumer education campaign – ABCs of Diabetes. The "A" stands for the A1c or hemoglobin A1c test, which measures average blood glucose levels; "B" is for blood pressure; and "C" is for cholesterol.

"We've expanded our education program from a singular focus on glucose control to include cholesterol and blood pressure management – all with the hopes of reducing the rates of cardiovascular disease among diabetics," said NDEP's information specialist, Joanne Gallivan.

The campaign outlines specific therapy goals for optimal diabetes management – A1c test results should measure less than 7 percent or an average blood glucose level of 150, blood pressure should be below 130/80, and LDL cholesterol should fall below 100.

"I tried to tell myself that I was going to be the poster child for diabetes control when I was first diagnosed, but I didn't realize that it takes time. It's a process, and although it doesn't happen overnight, it is attainable. Initially, my A1c test score was 9.8 – which is really bad, but I made some changes, began exercising every day, and the next time I was tested, it was down to 7.5," added Grant. "Now I go every three months to make sure that I'm progressing to my target range – below 7 percent."

Later this year, NDEP will be tailoring this program to specifically focus on racial and ethnic minorities. "Minorities in general are at a higher risk for diabetes for a number of reasons, and are therefore at a greater risk of cardiovascular dis-

ease," said Gallivan.

Fortunately, several approaches, such as weight control, increased physical activity, drug therapy and cholesterol lowering are each viable ways of controlling cardiovascular disease risk factors. Cholesterol management, in particular, should be addressed in much the same way by a person with diabetes as in a person diagnosed with heart disease.

Recognizing this fact, the National Cholesterol Education Program (NCEP) has recently amended its guidelines to better address the connection between diabetes and cardiovascular disease. "Diabetes has always been a known risk factor for cardiovascular disease, but has been elevated to a 'coronary risk equivalent' because people with diabetes are at equal risk for a heart attack as a person with heart disease," said Dr. James Cleeman, coordinator, NCEP. "We now encourage people with diabetes to lower their LDL cholesterol under 100, the same as someone with cardiovascular disease."

NCEP underscores the connection between diabetes and cardiovascular disease in all of its publications, including its recent online educational campaign – Live Healthy, Live Longer. The site contains information about cholesterol lowering for people who want to lower their risk of cardiovascular disease – especially those with diabetes.

In addition, the campaign's National Cholesterol Education Month Tool Kit features tips for reducing cardiovascular risk and heart healthy recipes – particularly African American and Latino favorites.

"There may be more educational efforts that are needed to address this issue in minority communities, but diabetes is an equal opportunity risk factor. We've taken an even-handed approach to this. The treatment is basically the same across minority lines," Cleeman said, re-emphasizing the importance of lowering cholesterol levels.

"Living with diabetes can be easy if you surrender to it, recognize that you

See HOLMES, Page 15

Recipe of the Month

Scrumptious Meat Loaf

1 lb	ground beef, extra lean
1/2 c	tomato paste (4 oz.)
1/4 c	onion, chopped
1/4 c	green peppers
1/4 c	red peppers
1 cup	tomatoes, fresh, blanched, chopped
1 t	orange rind, grated
1/2 t	mustard, low sodium
1/4 t	ground black pepper
1/2 t	hot pepper, chopped
2 cloves	garlic, chopped
2 stalks	scallion, chopped
1/2 t	ginger, ground
1/8 t	nutmeg, ground
1/2 t	thyme, crushed
1/4 c	bread crumbs, finely grated

Mix all ingredients together. Place in 1-pound loaf pan (preferably a pan with a drip rack) and bake covered at 350°F for 50 minutes. Uncover pan and continue baking for 12 minutes.

Makes 6 servings
Serving size: 6 (1 1/2-inch) thick slices
Calories 193
Fat 9 g
Saturated Fat 3 g
Cholesterol 45 mg

Source: *Heart-Healthy Home Cooking African-American Style*. National Institutes of Health.

It Takes the Whole Church to Raise a Child

By Rev. Robert L. Sanders, Pastor
Antioch Missionary Baptist Church, Monroe, NC
And Dr. Anita D. Sanders

(KJV) Proverbs 22:6 states – “Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” This is scripture often quoted by “church goers” without them realizing the African American Church has an awesome responsibility to provide training opportunities for its youth. The church has a responsibility of not only spiritually training its youth, but also to socially train and educate them. It should be noted that a large part of this social training is in identity development – who am I and who am I striving to be.

Youth today in general struggle with their identity. Many youth are quick to say they don't want to be like their parents, but yet are struggling with identify-

ing other positive role models. The result is that they turn to each other for identification, and what they often times find and emulate is a troubled and moral-less society. But it does not have to be that way, especially for our African American youth who are derived from a strong cultural and spiritual based heritage.

African American youth must learn to embrace their cultural heritage. A major factor is the race issue. Yes, society has tackled many racial obstacles but yet have many more to conquer. Just think for a moment – when a black youth of today wears adolescent attire, what reaction do they receive from non-peer groups? Do women hold their purses a little tighter or maybe cross the street to avoid them? How often do our youth hear the sound of the automatic door locks on cars as they pass by? And why are our youth still the

ones followed around by the security guards at the local malls? If we have a story to tell or can identify with any of the before mentioned examples, then we must examine who is helping our youth to develop survival strategies and maintain positive self esteem.

Race is an issue in America that must be dealt with, and until it is adequately dealt with, the African American church has no choice but to be race conscious. That is actively seeking to encourage positive racial identity by providing its youth with positive cultural images and messages about what it means to be African American, thereby reducing the impact of society's negative messages. Some African American churches are actively thinking of creative ways to socially educate our youth, but there are many others struggling to identify effective plans. To those struggling, you must first accept that the public school sector is not addressing this situation as they once were able to – whether it is because the curriculum mandates do not allow time for inclusion, not understanding the importance of addressing this dilemma, or not feeling comfortable in addressing this issue. Regardless to the reason, the

church must once again lead the discussion in this battle as it has so faithfully done in past situations.

Research supports a continuous decline in African Americans entering the teaching profession. As the shortage of African American women is increasing, the chance of seeing an African American male teacher is decreasing at a higher rate.

The African American proverb reads “. . . that it takes the entire village to raise the child . . .” In the past, the African American community helped each other with child rearing. Neighbors watched out, monitored, and mentored each other's children. But because of current economic challenges, the neighbors now must work, which leaves children watching out, monitoring, and mentoring each other.

What must the African American church do? We must openly discuss the challenges facing our youth with our youth. We must talk about the spiritual difficulties they may be facing now or later on in life, and instruct them on the biblical teachings and disciplines that tell them how to deal with various social issues and encounters with racism. ■

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HOLMES, Cont'd From Page 14

have it, and work towards tight control. If you don't, you're guaranteed to have problems. It takes more than knowledge to control your diabetes – it takes action, and keeping it in the forefront of your mind,” Grant concluded.

For more information on the link between diabetes and heart disease, visit

the National Disease Education Program Website at <http://ndep.nih.gov> or contact the American Heart Association at <http://www.americanheart.org> or call 800-AHA-USA1. To access the Live Healthy, Live Longer online educational materials, go to <http://www.nhdbi.nih.gov/chd>.

*Name has been changed to protect privacy. ■

BRODIE, Cont'd From Page 6

office prior to this year's Annual Session.

Housing Reservation Forms for the 119th Annual Session are now available from the office. Please complete the form and send it directly to the host hotel, Adam's Mark, Winston-Salem. The Annual Session Assembly will meet July 27th – 31st, 2003 at the Benton Convention Center, Winston-Salem.

Budget: The 2002 – 2003 Budget is in the amount of \$806,055.00; Foreign Missions \$80,200.00, State Missions

\$565,855.00, Shaw University \$49,500.00, Shaw Divinity School \$33,500.00, Central Children's Home \$36,500.00, and Baptist Assembly \$40,500.00. Checks and money orders should be made payable to the Woman's Baptist State Convention and sent to Woman's Baptist State Convention, P. O. Box 1818, Raleigh, NC 27602. PLEASE BE REMINDED THAT THE WOMAN'S CONVENTION FUNDS ARE NOT A PART OF THE UNIFIED PLAN. ■

www.gbbsc.org

Cross of Christ Church: Reaching, Reconciling, Restoring Broken Lives

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Michael R. Smith, Sr., Chairman

A few months ago I wrote an article that included a new church plant that has taken place at the Federal Correctional complex in Butner, North Carolina. This



Rev. Michael
Smith, Sr.

the complex has been wonderful. The purpose of Cross of Christ Church is to

church plant is called the Cross of Christ Church. The church is made up of all the Christian men throughout the complex. Since the inception on March 3, 2002, the Lord has blessed our efforts and the response within

reach, reconcile, and restore broken lives that have been impacted by crime and incarceration. The men of the church are being disciplined to know their individual purpose and ministry. Secondly, the mission of Cross of Christ Church is to reach other persons who are incarcerated in an effort to help others walk from crime with Christ to contribution. Thirdly, to prepare men to re-enter society. I know the Spirit of God has begun this work and will see it to completion to the glory of our Father God and Jesus Christ.

This church plant will also include an outreach to persons in our communities to include At-Risk youth, victims of crime and persons transitioning from prison back to the community. These efforts will comprise the primary mission of the Cross of Christ Church. It is my conviction every local church should exist for a specific mission. In these last

days, the truth is many local churches only exist to carry out their own agenda. It hurts me to say many have lost their sense of mission and have reverted to self serving efforts that have no sense of reaching, reconciling and restoring the broken lives for which Jesus Christ died. The souls in our prisons are just as precious to God as your soul.

I find among even Christians, an unbiblical attitude that thinks that persons impacted by crime and incarceration are not candidates for authentic redemption or serious ministry through the Holy Spirit. I even heard a church-going woman say, "We don't go to the prisons." I exhort you to read 2 Corinthians 5:17-21. I exhort you to see that Jesus Christ can redeem and use those who have broken the law. Remember Moses the murderer, Jacob the deceiver, David the adulterer/conspirator to murder, Samson the whoremonger, Rahab the prostitute, Saul the persecutor of the Church, Legion the drug abusive mental patient, and lastly **YOU AND ME**. I exhort you to support the Cross of Christ Church plant in your prayers and any other way you are willing. Lastly, the ISM is available to come to your association or church to help

equip, educate and train you to respond to this needy mission field. The fastest growing mission field is not overseas, it is right here in the prisons of our state. The Cross of Jesus Christ is where **your sins** were forgiven and **your soul** was reached, reconciled and restored. The Cross of Christ Church is seeking to do what Jesus did and we pray you will join us in the battle for souls.

Faith Crisis In N.C. State Prisons

Presently, our state prisons face a crisis of losing all full-time state funded chaplains. These chaplains represent the pastoral leadership within a prison setting. They also represent the key conduit for Church community involvement. President Bullock and Executive Secretary A. D. Logan, Jr. have written an official letter of support for state-funded chaplains and the importance of their ministries. I am asking all GBSC leaders to let your congregations know of this crisis and to contact your respective legislature saying, "WE WANT FULL-TIME STATE FUNDED CHAPLAINS IN OUR PRISONS." Yet many GBSC Pastors and leaders have remained silent or simply ignored this crisis. The time to speak up is now before it is too late. ■

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ADOPTION AND FOSTER CARE NEWS



VERA

Birthday: January 14, 1991

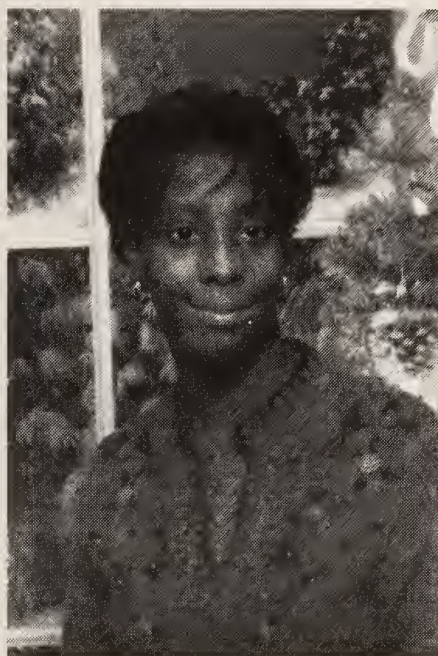
TV and play basketball. She also likes being "big sister" to her younger brothers and foster siblings. Vera helps out with her share of the housework without being asked. Vera reads at least a grade above her age level and has made the honor roll at school. Her teacher says she is an excellent student and admires her performance and enthusiasm. Vera is very mature for her age and looks much older than she is. She attended counseling to help her work through her feelings of neglect and the separation from her brothers.
Birthday: January 14, 1991

A Family for Vera...

Vera will have a bright future, and it can be brighter still with the love, guidance and stability of a permanent, caring family. She understands adoption and would very much like a family of her own, but she needs to be able to continue visits and contact with her brothers.
 (NC #060-1266)

Introducing Michelle...

Michelle is a sweet, kind, friendly and quiet young woman. She likes to talk on the phone with other teenage friends, make herself up and look pretty. Michelle is



MICHELLE

Birthday: July 2, 1986

and cartoons. Michelle is mildly mentally retarded. She attends a specialized classroom for part of the day, but she also attends some mainstream classes. It is expected that Michelle will be capable of learning a trade, holding down a job, getting a driver's license and even marrying and becoming a parent. Her school counselor works with Michelle to teach her assertiveness in response to being picked on and taken advantage of by boys. She also needs to work on maintaining respect when she is upset. **Birthday: July 2, 1986**

A Family for Michelle...

Michelle hopes to be adopted by an active, loving family. She is an easy child to parent as she is respectful and appreciative. Michelle would benefit from a family who is good at teaching and modeling independent living skills to assist her in developing her own skills. They will need to be somewhat protective of her social relationships. (NC #041-0319)

For more information on these children or adoption, in general, call the NC Kids Adoption and Foster Care Network's toll free hotline at 1-877-NCKIDS-1 (1-877-625-4371)

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The Lewis Chapel Baptist Church Breaks Ground on Multi-Million Dollar John D. Fuller, Sr. Recreation and Athletic Complex

"Where there is no vision, the people perish" (Proverbs 29:18a)

By Rev. Dennis Leach

In keeping with the church's motto: "The Church That Moves Forward Forever, Backwards Never", on December



Rev. Dennis Leach

14, 2002, The Lewis Chapel Baptist Church broke ground for the **John D. Fuller, Sr., Recreation and Athletic Complex**. Under the leadership of Pastor Fuller, Immediate Past-President of the General Baptist State Convention, the Lewis Chapel church set a new course and phase of ministry to the greater Fayetteville community. Pastor Fuller stated that he had envisioned completing this structure and this phase of his pastoral ministry some

years ago. He said that God had blessed him with a congregation that was willing to follow and support his vision for the Lewis Chapel Church. The new Recreation and Athletic Complex will be built on a portion of the church's property off Old Bunce Road.

The groundbreaking ceremony of the John D. Fuller Sr., Recreation and Athletic Complex was well attended. It opened with a hymn, "The Church's One Foundation." Invocation was given by Rev. Dr. Beverly Spivey, Old Testament scriptures by Olivia Campbell, Mrs. Norma Norman, and New Testament by Dr. Jerry Butler. The Statement of Purpose was given by Ms. Diane Newell; followed by remarks from Mr. Chris Kuenzel, Planning; Mr. William M. Brooks, Jr., Financing; and Mr. Gus Weber, Construction. The Honorable Marshall B. Pitts, Mayor, The Honorable Billy R. King, County Commissioner, and Reverend Dr. K. P. Johnson gave greetings. Pastor Fuller, along with several others, participated in the turning of the soil. Deacon James W. Smith offered a

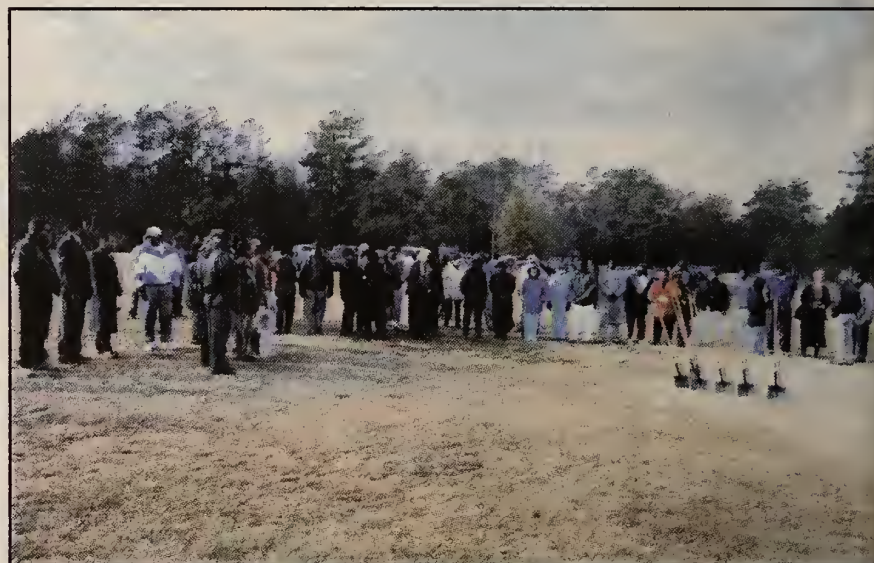
prayer of thanksgiving, and Reverend Dexter Alexander gave the closing benediction.

The John D. Fuller Sr., Recreation and Athletic Complex physical structure consists of two levels and will encompass thirty-six thousand, six hundred (32,600) square feet. The J. D. Fuller Complex will have an exercise room with state of the art computerized Nautilus machines. The Cardiovascular equipment and classes will consist of treadmills, exercise bicycles, dance and aerobics classes. In addition, there will be free-weights, mirrors, wall bars, sound system, and TV. There will be an audio/visual link to the gymnasium and security office for continuous coverage. There will be a full court basketball gym, which will seat up to five hundred (500) people, a banquet and dining area, which will seat up to one thousand (1000); additionally the gym can be converted to an auditorium and seat up to one thousand five hundred and sixty-four (1,564). Finally, the Complex will house two large meeting rooms, a kitchen, administrative offices, two locker rooms

with showers, a café, a stage, break area for patrons, a conference room, and many other amenities. This Recreational edifice will be a community meeting place to the glory of God.

In terms of its outreach, the J. D. Fuller Recreation and Athletic Complex will serve as the launching pad for several ministries to include a clinic, offer drug/alcohol and disease awareness, Day-care for infants and small children, and offer supervised child-care for users. It will act as the ministry hub for community outreach, family development (physical and spiritual), and the continual growth and witness of the Lewis Chapel Church family for years to come. To God be the glory for the great things He has, He is, and He will do!

**The John D. Fuller, Sr.
Recreation and Athletic Complex**
6627 Old Bunce Road
Fayetteville, North Carolina



Mortgage Burning Celebration The Baptist World Center Nashville, Tennessee January 22, 2003

By Portia Braandon, M.Div.

Leaders at this week's meeting of the National Baptist Convention USA Inc., the nation's largest black denomination, burned the mortgage on the \$12 million Baptist World Center, our Nashville headquarters.

As we did so Wednesday, we praised the leadership of the Dr. William J. Shaw, the man who revived the 7.5

million-member denomination.

An idea of a Convention Headquarters Building that would become the center of a global ministry was conceived by Dr. T. J.

Jimison and presented to the Convention on January 24, 1985. The Building was dedicated on June 21, 1989.

When Dr. Henry J. Lyons assumed the Presidency in 1994, the mortgage on the Center was \$6 million. During his administration and that of Dr. S. C. Cureton, the mortgage was reduced by \$3.1 million.

Three years into Dr. William J. Shaw administration, we were blessed to pay off this obligation of \$2.9 million plus interest. On Wednesday, January 22, 2003, we burned the mortgage.

Dr. Shaw, pastor of the White Rock Baptist Church in Philadelphia since 1956, was elected to succeed Lyons. He has worked to restore confidence in the denomination, which was founded by ex-slaves and has roots dating back to 1880.

Dr. William J. Shaw's campaign motto was VISA, for Vision, Integrity, Structure and Accountability.



**Portia
Braandon**



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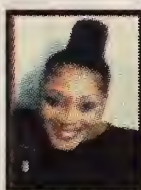
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Host Pastor



Dr. Carolyn Showell
Wed., March 26
7 pm



Bishop Noel Jones
Thurs., March 27
7 pm



Rev. Al Sharpton
Fri., March 28
7 pm



Dr. Patricia Bailey
Conference
Lecturer
Thur. & Fri. - 6 pm



Pastor J.B. Whitfield
Thursday
Noon Day Preacher



Pastor Larry Covington
Friday
Noon Day Preacher



Dr. Delores Smith
Luncheon Speaker
Friday - 1 pm



Mrs. Brannie Daniels
Missions Award
Friday - 1 pm



Dr. Shirley Bullock
Day Session Presenter
Thur. & Fri.



Dr. Ken Hammonds
Day Session Presenter
Thur. & Fri.



Pastor Melvin "Rip" Wilkins
Boot Camp Facilitator
Missions Boot Camp
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into the community
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The Successful Adoptive Family

By Earl Horton
GBSC Adoption and Foster Care
Director of Public Relations

In North Carolina there are approximately 9,000 children wishing to be adopted by a family who wants to love, care, and nurture them. There are many



Earl Horton

families who are interested but are curious and hesitant about adoption. Adoption indeed involves a serious commitment from a family who is willing to raise a child as their own. In Deuteronomy 6:6-7 states "Any of you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands I am giving you today. Repeat them again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are away on a journey, when you are lying down and when you are getting up again." Below is a list of characteristics that successful adoptive families possess. It is hoped that the qualities listed below will stimulate singles and couples who are thinking about adoption to take the next step toward achievement of having a child in your home.

Characteristics of successful adoptive families include:

Dealing with conflicting thoughts and bad feelings

When positive feelings for the child are diminishing the successful adoptive family must keep going and stay positive. Families must not judge themselves too harshly for experiencing negative feelings toward the child. The family must know that they cannot escape such feelings given the child's behavior. They understand they may feel angry without acting on that anger.

Sense of belonging

Successful adoptive families feel their adopted child is truly theirs. They help the child transition from being alone to feeling love from a family who cares for him or her. Parents must make assumptions that parental stance is for a short time.

Unwelcome and controlling qualities

Successful adoptive families are comfortable with giving direction and providing structure for their adopted children. Parents take the lead in the relationship and are intrusive and controlling in a caring way. They assume control, try to anticipate behaviors, interrupt negative behaviors early, and provide a great deal of praise and affection. They are not turned away by the child's withdrawal.

Open expectations

Successful families with children of special

needs have realistic, flexible expectations of themselves and their children. They do not try to remake the child but strive to help the child achieve success by acknowledging and appreciating small steps toward goals.

Dealing with rejection

Successful adoptive families are able to withstand behaviors by their adoptive children that might be hurtful, angry, rejecting behaviors. They do not take it personally if the child is rejecting because they recognize it reflects the child's fear of closeness. They recognize the child's ties with the birth family, former foster families, and others are not a rejection of them.

Parents receiving love from adoptive children

Successful adoptive families are aware that the relationship with their adopted children may not be two fold. They can nurture without receiving much in return. It does not mean the children do not love or are appreciative but need time to open their hearts to their adoptive family. Adoptive parents should not feel that they are a failure to their child because the child is not showing their love.

Sense of humor

Successful families are able to use humor to deal with the stress that results from adoptive parenting. They can laugh and vent feelings, finding humor in daily exchanges with their children.

Must make time for personal needs

Successful adoptive families must seek and accept help from others such as family, friends or church members. They must learn how to ask and seek help for support if needed. Adoptive parents or individuals must realize that taking personal time is necessary.

Ability to use resources

Successful adopters seek and accept help. They must learn how to identify and access help and support. They seek help from support groups and professionally facilitated therapy. They let others into their family system to give that extra support where needed.

Flexible Family Roles

Successful adoptive families share the responsibility of parenting and nurturing. Parents are able to detect signs of burnout in their partner and share the care-giving role for the children.

When a family is interested in adoption or foster care they understand these qualities are what make the successful family. A sure way to find out if your family can be a successful one is to participate in the MAPP (Model Approach to Partnerships in Parenting) training course.

If you are serious about becoming a successful adoptive or foster family call the GBSC Headquarters at 1-800-639-4272.

CENTRAL CHILDREN'S HOME NEWS

News From Central Children's Home

By Reverend Ricky L. Banks

Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous: for praise is comely for the upright. Greetings in His Name: The verse of the month: Charge them that are rich in this



Rev. Ricky Banks

world, that they be not high-minded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God. 1 Timothy 6:17A.

When Jesus said, It is more blessed to give than to receive, he indicated that there is real joy to be found in

giving, real happiness in sharing what is ours with others. Jesus did not say things because they sounded pleasing to human ears. What he really said works. We bring nothing material into this world, and we take nothing material out of it.

Everything we possess was already here in some form or other when we arrived. God is the owner, we are the trustees. Even our ability to acquire these worldly possessions is God-given. It may seem a strange paradox, but the more we give to God, the more we have. Truly what is ours, is ours to give.

We are still seeking your support for our Central Children's Home, and to you once again this month, we are still holding on to the mighty Hand of God. The transitional classroom program, the accreditation process, and the winter basketball program are some of the major projects taking place at the Home. Remember whatever you can do to help with the work of the home, whether great or small, will be greatly appreciated, and don't forget to lift up The Central Children's Home in your prayers. If additional information is needed, or if you need us to come to your place of worship, feel free to call us at 252-339-3438 or 252-335-9777. GOD BLESS!

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Meeting of U.S. and European Church Leaders on Iraq

Submitted by Carol J. Smith
Managing Editor

Three U.S. church leaders, including the General Secretary of the National Council of Churches, joined the European church leaders in Berlin on Wednesday, February 5, for "an urgent one-day meeting" on Iraq.



Carol J. Smith

Forging a common and consistent response by churches to the threat of military action in Iraq was the goal of the Wednesday meeting. The meeting was convened by the World Council of Churches (WCC), in response to an initiative by the Evangelische Kirche in Deutschland (EKD), and in consultation with the Conference of European Churches (CEC).

The U.S. leaders attending the meeting were the Rev. Dr. Bob Edgar, General Secretary, National Council of Churches (www.nccusa.org); James Winkler, General Secretary, General Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church (www.umc.org); and Dr. Rebecca Larson, Executive Director, Division for Church and Society, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (www.elca.org).

The U.S. and European church leaders

were scheduled to meet with German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder after their meeting on Wednesday.

Peter Weiderud, coordinator of the WCC International Affairs team, said the church leaders were invited to the meeting because "the crisis in Iraq is moving into a new, even more critical, phase" since the weapons' inspectors' first report to the UN Security Council on Monday, January 27.

Emphasizing that Europe has an "extremely significant role" in the present crisis, he stated that the meeting would be "valuable both for individual churches as well as for the ecumenical movement as a whole, in order to prevent an humanitarian catastrophe and the far-reaching implications a possible war would have on the region as well as internationally."

In addition to the U.S. delegation, additional participants in Wednesday's meeting included: Rev. Dr. Konrad Raiser, General Secretary, World Council of Churches (www.wcc-coe.org); Rev. Dr. Keith Clements, General Secretary, Conference of European Churches (www.ccc-kek.org); Prases Manfred Kock, Chairman, Evangelische Kirche in Deutschland (www.ekd.de); Bishop Dr. Walter Klaiber, head of the Arbeitsgemeinschaft Christlicher Kirchen in Deutschland (ACK) (www.ockumene-ack.de), and Evangelical-Methodist Church (Germany) (www.emk.de); Rev. Dr. Jean-Arnold de Clermont, president of the Protestant Federation of France (www.protestants.org).

Also Bishop Mng. Herwig Sturm, Evangelical Church of the Augsburg and

Helvetic Confessions in Austria (www.evangel.at); Rev. Thomas Wipf, president of the Federation of Swiss Protestant Churches (www.sek-feps.ch/index.php); Bishop Jonas Jonsson, Bishop of the Church of Sweden and Rev. Kjell Jonasson, Church of Sweden (www.svenskakyrkan.se); Rev. Canon Dr. Trond Bakkevig, Church of Norway (www.kirken.no); Archbishop Jukka Panna, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland (www.evl.fi); Bischof Karsten Nissen, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark (www.folkekirken.dk); Dr. Alison Elliot, Church of Scotland and Churches Together in Scotland (ACTS) (www.churchofscotland.org.uk); Rev. Arie W. van der Plas, Reformed Churches in the Netherlands and Uniting Protestant Churches in the Netherlands (www.unitingprotestantchurches.nl); Archbishop

Feofan, Russian Orthodox Church, archbishop of Berlin and Germany (www.r-o-k.de); Bishop Athanasius of Achaja, Church of Greece (www.ccclesia.gr); and Rev. Dr. Nuha Daoud Tomeh, representing the General Secretariat of the Middle East Council of Churches (www.mec-churches.org).

The World Council of Churches (WCC), with headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, is a fellowship of churches, now 342, in more than 100 countries in all continents from virtually all Christian traditions.

The National Council of Churches (USA), with headquarters in New York City, is the leading ecumenical agency in the United States. Its 36 Protestant, Orthodox, and Anglican member churches comprise 50 million adherents in 140,000 local congregations.

Washington, D.C. Conference Seeks to Put Haitian Migration Crisis Back on Public Agenda

Submitted by Carol J. Smith
Managing Editor

A National Conference on the current Haitian Migration Crisis, brought together leading policy makers, analysts and advocates to develop constructive responses to an ongoing humanitarian crisis, which originates in Haiti and is compounded by U.S. treatment of Haitian asylum seekers. They are provided less protection than any other nationality seeking asylum.

October 29, the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) detained more than 200 Haitian men, women and children who reached Florida. November 13, the INS announced that all individuals who arrive illegally by sea would be

detained and subjected to expedited removal procedures enacted by Congress in 1996.

Most of the October 29 "boat group" – including unaccompanied children – remain in detention. Legal and humanitarian advocates are struggling to get sufficient access to these and others seeking a safe haven from persecution, who often are rushed to immigration court before they adequately can formulate their claim.

At the conference, two groups released new reports on U.S. denial of protection for Haitians and conditions in Haiti.

The conference was held February 5 in Washington, D.C. Host was Senator Edward Kennedy.

Protect Your Credit While You Protect Your Country

By Attorney General Roy Cooper

As many of our soldiers and reservists are being called to active duty, families across North Carolina are saying goodbye and preparing for their loved one's absence. With all the things to consider during this hectic time, some people might not think about financial issues that could arise while their husband or wife is away. Some soldiers might not realize that they should take steps to safeguard their credit before they are sent overseas to serve their country.

Get your financial house in order:

Before a spouse is deployed, families need to make sure that their financial records are accurate and up-to-date. This means giving the spouse who will be paying the bills for the next several months all bank account and credit card numbers, a record of assets and outstanding debts, a list of typical expenses such as rent and utilities, and all phone numbers and addresses necessary for dealing with financial matters.

Consider granting a power of attorney: Soldiers should also consider granting power of attorney to their spouse or another trusted family member who can handle financial matters in their absence. Power of attorney gives someone the legal authority to sign important papers and act on your behalf and can be limited to a specific period of time. Military installation legal assistance offices can help service men and women to set up a power of attorney.

Take care of taxes: Before deployment, decide how your taxes will be filed and who will file them. If your husband or wife will be taking on tax duty for the first time, make sure he or she has all necessary documents. The IRS also allows soldiers to file for an extension by using Form 2350.

Watch out for scams: My office gets far too many complaints from service men and women who are taken advantage of by scammers. Military spouses should be especially careful while their husband or wife is away on active duty, as these criminals may try to profit from any change in financial circumstances. If you

have been hit by a scam, contact my Consumer Protection office at (919) 716-6000.

Guard your identity: Recent news reports have highlighted another threat that soldiers may face while serving their country – the threat of identity theft. A health care company in Phoenix told law enforcement authorities that important personal information for more than 500,000 soldiers was stolen during a computer heist last month. This personal information could be used by ID thieves to commit fraud in the names of thousands of service members. Military men and women may be at increased risk of ID theft while on active duty because they are not able to attend to financial matters as closely. To learn how to protect your identity, visit the Federal Trade Commission's identity theft website at www.consumer.gov/idtheft or call their hotline at 1 (877) ID THEFT.

Soldiers and Sailors Relief Act:

This federal law offers some additional financial protection for service men and women who are called to active duty. Under certain circumstances, this law can

cap interest rates for those on active duty to 6 percent per year for mortgage payments, credit card debt, and car and personal loans but not for federally subsidized student loans. If your rent costs \$1,200 or less per month, the Soldiers and Sailors Relief Act can also stop your family from being evicted while you are serving active duty. In addition, the act can protect a soldier from civil court actions if military service materially affects his or her ability to defend the action. However, the act cannot help you get out of a contract for a car or boat, or allow you to cancel the new furniture you'd ordered and agreed to pay for prior to being called up. If you have additional questions about the Soldiers and Sailors Relief Act, contact your installation legal assistance offices for help.

Attorney General Roy Cooper and his staff are here to help North Carolinians avoid scams and protect their good names. We are here to be of service when you need us, but through education efforts like these columns we hope to help consumers avoid problems from the start.

High Point Association Selects Man of Year

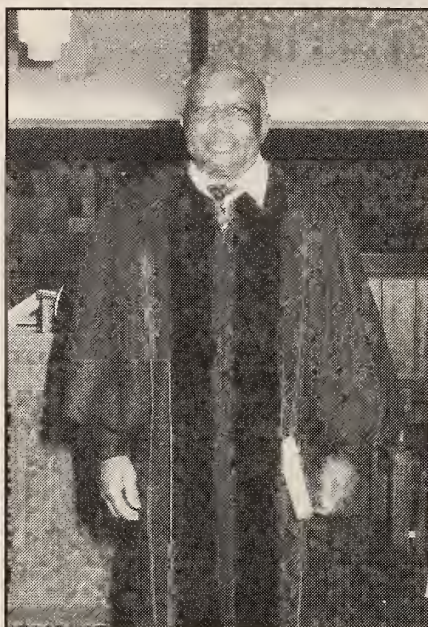
By Sis. Mattie Walker, Reporter

Rev. William G. Hill is in his seventh year as pastor of the Locust Grove Baptist Church in Brown Summit, NC. As God's humble servant, his main goal is to preach deliverance to the lost and to equip the saints so that they can do the work of evangelists. He is the spiritual overseer of an approximately 5,778 sq. ft. expansion project at the church — all for the glory of God.

Pastor Hill is active on various committees and projects of the High Point Association. Because of his faithfulness to the women's auxiliary, he was named the "Man of the Year" for 2002-2003.

A native of Maysville, NC, Pastor Hill worked his way through NC A&T State University. His college career was redirected by a call to a two-year tour of duty in the US Army. After working a few years with the United States Postal Service, he returned to NC A&T to complete his degree in electrical engineering, did graduate work and became a lab manager in the Electrical Engineering Department where he served his alma mater until his retirement.

Pastor Hill was called into the gospel ministry on March 21, 1977. He preached his initial sermon and was licensed by the late Dr. C. W. Anderson at United Institutional



Rev. William Hill was voted "Man of the Year" of the High Point Educational and Missionary Association, Inc. (Photo by Mrs. Darlene Neal)

Baptist Church. He was ordained through the Rowan Association in May 1980, the same month in which he received a Master of Divinity degree from Shaw University. He assumed his first pastorate in December 1979 at the First Baptist Church in Trinity where he served for over 16 years. He was active in the Rowan Association where he was the conductor of the superintendent class and the auditor of the association for many years.

The Hills have three adult children and two grandchildren. He and his beloved wife, Barbara, reside in Greensboro.

High Point Association Holds Annual Meeting

By Sis. Mattie Walker, Reporter

The High Point Educational and Missionary Association, Inc. held its annual Fellowship Meeting at Locust Grove Baptist Church in Brown Summit, NC.

The Fellowship is celebrated by the churches bringing non-perishable foods of different sorts. Each year the food is given to a different county

— this year it was given to two charitable organizations in Guilford County.

The keynote speaker was Rev. William G. Hill, host pastor, who was voted the Man of the Year for the Association. The meeting climaxed with a Fellowship Luncheon, which consisted of a mixture of Soul Foods and Finger food.



In the picture, seated is Woman's Auxiliary President Sister Nancy W. Perry; resting on the arm is little missionary Kasba Alderman. Standing (left to right): 2nd Vice President, Sis. Brenda Webster; Reporter, Sis. Mattie Walker; Moderator, Dr. J. T. Walker; and 1st Vice President, Sis. Shelia Sullivan. Photographer is Sis. Darlene Neal.

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Tie-Breaker Also Breaks a Color Barrier

Nearly 50 years ago, a young white girl helped change the color of Wilson's political history.

During that year, an immigrant named G. K. Butterfield, Sr. ran for Wilson City Council. When the votes were tallied and both Butterfield and his opponent, Herbert H. Harriss, received 386 votes, three-year-old Debbie Watson was called on to choose the winner.

Standing on a table and blindfolded, the girl reached into a hat and pulled out the name of the winner – Butterfield.

Dr. George Kenneth Butterfield was a dentist by trade and had a quiet passion for uplifting the black community.

Fleeing Bermuda's poverty in 1916, the 16-year-old set sail alone for a better opportunity in America, says his son, Judge G. K. Butterfield, Jr.

The elder Butterfield volunteered to serve in World War I, for two reasons: to have a job and retain citizenship.

After the war, he attended Shaw University in Raleigh, where he met his future wife, Addie Davis of Wilson, who was attending Shaw's high school.

After earning his undergraduate

degree at Shaw, Butterfield attended dental school at Tennessee's Meharry Medical College, a historically black institution.

With a dental degree in hand, Butterfield returned to Raleigh in 1927 but did not have money to open his own practice. So he worked for Sir Walter Raleigh Hotel cleaning spittoons, his son said.

Eventually, opportunity came for Butterfield when he took over a Henderson dental practice.

But in 1928, Butterfield followed his heart and came to Wilson, where he married Addie Davis, then a teacher.

"He was a very mild-mannered man, non-confrontational, intelligent, and understood the responsibility of black professionals to the community that they serve," G. K. Butterfield, Jr. said of his father.

For 30 years, Butterfield served as chairman of the deacon board for Jackson Chapel Baptist Church, where his father-in-law was pastor.

In 1953, Butterfield decided to run for City Council (then called the Board of

Aldermen).

Wilson was divided into voting wards, each electing an alderman.

"We don't know when the map was drawn," said his son. "But it was drawn recognizing that one day black people would start to vote. So it was drawn in such a way that black influence would be diluted."

The Butterfields lived in Ward 3, where most of the educated and professional black citizens lived. His ward started at U.S. 301 and was two blocks wide, stretching between Green and Nash streets all the way to Dick's Hot Dog Stand.

The purpose, his son said, was to put more whites in the ward so "if they (blacks) became really sophisticated and start running people for office, the west side would outvote the east side."

On May 6, 1953, Butterfield was the first black elected official in eastern North Carolina and fourth in the state.

In 1955, he won re-election and was named chairman of the Finance Committee. As chairman, it was his responsibility to present the local budget request to the N.C. General Assembly.

"So you have this black man, stepping

up there in Raleigh, with a budget before an all-white legislature," Butterfield, Jr. said.

Butterfield ran for council a third time. However, two months before the election, state officials approved changes eliminating districts and requiring at-large voting. Butterfield, Jr. said the state also prohibited "single-shot" voting. The law required voters to choose a complete slate of candidates and not vote for only one candidate. Single-shot voting would have given a black candidate a chance of winning among a mostly white field of candidates.

In 1957, Butterfield lost.

"That is the thing that has precipitated my whole interest in law and politics," Butterfield, Jr. said. "I've learned how government can work for you and against you. And in this case, it worked against a significant portion of the community."

After his defeat, Butterfield continued his dental practice at his East Nash Street office until he retired in 1978. His son then opened a law office with friend, Milton F. "Toby" Fitch, Jr., in the location.

Butterfield, Sr. suffered a massive stroke in 1979 and died in 1995. ■

Join the Lewis Chapel Missionary Baptist Church of Fayetteville, NC

Pastor John D. Fuller, Sr.

Escorted by Rev. Olu Q. Menjay and Rev. Beverly Spivey

At the

14TH BAPTIST YOUTH/YOUNG ADULT WORLD CONFERENCE

IN HONG KONG, CHINA

JULY 13 – 21, 2003

The World meets together to share and celebrate JESUS CHRIST!

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Reference: Lewis Chapel in Hong Kong 2003

J.J. JOHNSON BAPTIST ASSEMBLY INFORMATION

The Site:

The J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly is a tract of land comprising seventy-five (75) or more acres, much of which is covered with a mixture of North Carolina Pine, red and white oak trees. The location of the Baptist Assembly is on more than 75 rolling acres in Laurel Hill, North Carolina in Scotland County.

In 1967, approximately two-thirds of the acreage was donated by Dr. and Mrs. Joy J. Johnson and their daughter, Deborah (Mrs. Alexander Killiens). Additional acres were purchased by the Woman's Convention and General Baptist State Convention.

Our Purpose:

The purpose of the J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly in Laurel Hill is to provide a setting that is Christian in its atmosphere and is conducive to learning, worship, and meeting the needs of all individuals whom we serve. It seeks to provide opportunities for everyone to learn habits of good citizenship, and it provides at the same time opportunities to reach a maximum potential for Christian fellowship and fun experiences through democratic ideals and living.

The facility exists for the exclusive use by religious groups and/or organizations with similar aims regardless of ethnic origin.

Meeting Facilities:

At the J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly, there are various meeting facilities available. Listed below are the seating capacity (theater style) and lodging:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ♦ Rowan Association Chapel | Seating Capacity: 300-400 |
| ♦ Horne Lodge | Seating Capacity: 20-25, Sleeps 12 |
| ♦ Alston Lodge | Seating Capacity: 100, Sleeps 64 |
| ♦ Lumber Bridge Association Lodge | Seating Capacity: 100, Sleeps 64 |
| ♦ Brown Assembly Dining Hall | Seating Capacity: 200 |
- (Cafeteria Style)

Individuals should bring their own linen, blankets, soap and other toiletries for the lodging facilities.

"And gathered them out of the lands, from the east, and from the west, from the north, and from the south." Psalm 107:3

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE Workshop Luncheon

*"HOW CAN THE CHURCH
RESPOND TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE"*

On Saturday, March 29, 2003

the Conventional Family invites

all Ministers, Minister's Wives, Laymen, Missionaries
and Christian Friends to our first

Domestic Violence Workshop Luncheon

Ms. Marche Clarke, from North Carolina Coalition Against
Domestic Violence will conduct the workshop.

Your presence is greatly appreciated!

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Place: J.J. Johnson Baptist Assembly, Laurel Hill, N.C.

For information: (910) 462-2444

Yours in Christ,
Sandra D. McCallum Cor.

Current Annual Events

During the course of the year, the Conventional Family sponsors different ministries at the J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly. Among these are the following:

- ♦ Vacation Bible School (GBSC) – March
- ♦ Ministers' Wives Retreat (WBSC) – May
- ♦ Laymen's League Mini-Skills Retreat (GBSC) – May
- ♦ Leadership Training Conference (GBSC) – June
- ♦ Youth Bible Camp (WBSC) – June
- ♦ Laymen's League Boy's Summer Retreat (GBSC) – July
- ♦ Laymen's League Scouting Jamboree (GBSC) – August
- ♦ Laymen's League Men's Retreat (GBSC) – September
- ♦ North Carolina Branch of the 9th and 10th Calvary (Buffalo Soldiers) – October
- ♦ Usher's Retreat/Workshop (GBSC) – November
- ♦ Laymen's League Planning Session – December

The campus is available year round for meetings, weddings, banquets, family reunions, and other activities. Contact Rev. Eric Harris for the policies and procedures regarding each type of event.

Send Applications & Funds to:
General Baptist State Convention
J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly
603 S. Wilmington Street
Raleigh, NC 27601

(Make checks payable to J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly)

Sources: "1974" Brochure and the J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly
Guide And Handbook (1985).

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WORKSHOP

*"HOW CAN THE CHURCH RESPOND TO
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE"*

• Registration Form •

March 29, 2003 • 9:00 a.m.

J. J. JOHNSON BAPTIST ASSEMBLY

Church Name _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Attendee(s) _____

Please send registration form to:

Rev. Eric Harris, Acting Superintendent

P.O. Box 365

Laurel Hill, NC 28351

910-462-2444 • 1-800-639-4272

(PLEASE CONTACT CHURCHES FOR SPECIFIC QUALIFICATIONS SOME REQUIRE 3 OR MORE YEARS PASTORAL EXPERIENCE, SEMINARY TRAINING, MISSIONARY BAPTIST ORDINATION, MUSICAL SKILLS) (FOR SPECIFIC CHURCH QUALIFICATIONS CONTACT THE PULPIT COMMITTEE)

PASTORS

CHAPEL HILL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH – Autryville, NC: seeks a pastor to serve as its spiritual leader, teacher, counselor, and administrator. Some requirements are as followed:

- Must be born-again as evidenced by character and dedication
- Licensed, ordained Baptist minister
- Ability to preach/teach and have administrative skills
- Five years of pastoral experience preferred
- Some theological courses completed, and continuing
- Knowledge of Baptist doctrine, policies and procedures
- A resume, letter of interest, including a vision statement of their ministry
- Legible copies of ministerial license and ordination certification
- References: Include name, address and phone number, (1) Family reference, (1) Business reference, (1) Professional reference and (2) references from pastors familiar with your character and ministry
- Other criteria will be discussed during interviews

Please mail any applications/resumes and/or related material to:

Chapel Hill Missionary Baptist Church
Attn: Deacon Bobby R. McAllister
1450 Sivertsen Road
PO Box 434
Autryville, NC 28318-8064
Ph.: (919) 567-2961

MT. BRIGHT MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH – Hillsborough, NC: seeking a pastor to serve as its spiritual leader, teacher, counselor and administrator. Mt. Bright Missionary Baptist Church, organized in 1866, is located at 211 W. Union Street, Hillsborough, North Carolina. The purpose of the church is to provide Christian worship, to train, to teach and to bring its members into a closer fellowship with God through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Our mission is to know Christ, to make Christ known, be a community of Christian People, bring about restoration of all people to unity with God and each other in Christ, and to do all that we do so that Jesus Christ is first in our lives, so that he might become first in the lives of others. We have services every Sunday. Mt. Bright Baptist Church has approximately two hundred (200) members. Our ministries include the following: Pastoral, Deacons and Deaconess, Trustees, Missionary, Christian Education, Music, and Outreach. Finalists for the position must meet the following qualifications:

- Be willing to follow Baptist Doctrine and Policies.
- Possess good moral and ethical conduct, living by Tim 3:1-5.
- Be Divinely called and ordained.
- Have the ability to preach and teach God's word.
- Hold, be eligible to hold, or working toward a theological degree.
- Pastoral experience preferred.
- Possess good interpersonal relationship skills required for communicating, planning and implementing a vision for spiritual, physical and financial growth of the church.
- Have the skills required to work with all age groups with special emphasis on the youth.
- Be community oriented.
- Be willing to be evaluated on an annual basis.
- Be willing to live in proximity of the

church.

Interested candidates should submit a letter of interest and resume to: Dr. Millicent C. Rainey, Chairperson, Pastoral Search Committee, to: Mount Bright Missionary Baptist Church, 211 West Union Street, Hillsborough, NC 27278. Candidates selected for interview will be sent a formal application. Closing date: March 14, 2003.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH – Harmony, NC: seeks a pastor for a local congregation to serve as its spiritual leader, administrator, teacher and counselor. *The following list has the desired characteristics:* must be saved, born-again Christian; must be a licensed, ordained Baptist minister; must have the skills required for planning and implementing a vision for spiritual, physical and financial growth of the church; must possess ability to teach, train and coach church officers, auxiliary leaders and membership; must have good administrative skills which include the ability to articulate, negotiate and facilitate effectively with a diverse community including educational, business and civic communities; evidence of community awareness and involvement; must have knowledge of Baptist doctrine, church policies and parliamentary procedures; training from a seminary or theological institution is preferred; prior experience as a pastor is preferred. Applicants must provide a copy of certificates of license and ordination and proof of any training. The board will accept applications until the position is filled. *Submit a resume, a list of references and copies of certifications to:* Deacon Claude Steele/CONFIDENTIAL, First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 407, Harmony, NC 28634.

MILL NECK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH – Como, NC: currently accepting applications for a Pastor with strong Missionary Baptist roots. We are affiliated with the West Roanoke Missionary Baptist Association and the General Baptist State convention. *Interested applicants should provide a resume to:* Carolyn M. Farrow, Secretary, Pastor Search Committee, Mill Neck Missionary Baptist Church, P.O. Box 68, Mill Neck Rd., Como, NC 27818.

HILL STREET BAPTIST CHURCH – Asheville, NC: accepting applications for a spirit-filled leader. Our Pastor, Dr. Nilous M. Avery, with 51 years of continued, dedicated service, recently retired. The congregation of the Hill Street Baptist Church, Asheville, NC is now ready to receive resumes. We pray for applicants who:

- are born again
- are divinely called and ordained (1 Timothy 3:1-7)
- are spiritually mature
- are gifted in preaching and teaching the Word of God to all ages
- have a vision for the future of the church
- are experienced in Christian counseling, mediation and administration
- have a college degree and seminary training but will consider a combination of education and experience.

Titus 1:9 says: "holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both the exhort and to convince the gainsayers." It is important to have a leader who can effectively preach the Word of God, but it is even more important to have one who lives out God's Word and is an example for others to follow.

Mail resumes & serious inquiries to: Pastor Search Team, Hill Street Baptist Church, P.O. Box 327, Asheville, NC 28802. Deadline for resumes is March 15, 2003. "The Mission of the Hill Street Baptist Church through the power of God's grace, is to witness, to serve and to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ to all people."

BUNCOMBE BAPTIST CHURCH – Lexington, NC: accepting resumes from interested licensed ordained Missionary Baptist ministers.

Qualifications:

- Born again Christian
- Concerned with spiritual and intellectual growth of the church
- Ability to preach and teach God's Word
- Must be willing to teach and follow the Baptist Doctrines, policies and practices
- Ability to work with all age groups in the church
- Ability to carry out administrative, leadership and counseling duties
- Work cooperatively with church officials

FIRST MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH PASTOR NEEDED

The Pastoral Search Committee of the First Missionary Baptist Church in Smithfield, N.C., is seeking a pastor. It is currently accepting resumes from interested Licensed Ordained Baptist Ministers.

QUALIFICATIONS:

1. Must be a Spiritual Baptist Minister
 - a. Ordained Baptist Minister with a strong orientation in Baptist beliefs and doctrines
 - b. A good role model of moral and ethical conduct
2. Must have pastoral experience in the Baptist church
3. Graduate of a university and divinity school preferred
4. Church, family and community oriented with the ability and willingness to teach Bible Study and Baptist Doctrine
5. Strong leadership with an outlook for the future growth and development of the church

The closing date for submitting a resume is January 31, 2003.

Please send inquiries and resumes to:

Dr. Phyllis Ethridge, Chairperson of Pastoral Search Committee
101 Lake Ridge Drive, Smithfield, NC 27577

THE UNITED SHILOH BAPTIST ASSOCIATION "Stewardship Institute 2003"

Hosted By First Baptist Church Oxford

Pastor and Moderator, Lacy Joyner

❖ **March 3 - 6 at 6:45 p.m.** ❖

Theme: "Spiritual Leadership"

Presenters: Dr. Geoffrey Guns, Richmond, VA
and Mr. Shelton Anderson, Henderson, NC

Textbook: Spiritual Leadership: A Guide to Developing Spiritual Leaders in the Church by Dr. Geoffrey Guns

Each night, there will be praise and worship, workshops, a sermonette, and music by association pastors and choirs.

- Family and community oriented
- Teach Bible Study and attend Sunday School and prayer meetings
- Theological and/or Seminary training preferred
- Good communications skills
- Must be a good role model of moral and ethical conduct

Please send resumes and inquiries to: Buncombe Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1533, Lexington, NC 27293.

GUILDFIELD M.B. CHURCH – New Bern, NC: currently accepting applications for a Pastor. Guildfield M.B. Church is an established church with a rich heritage in Eastern North Carolina. It is a growing congregation with active ministries focusing on the youth, senior citizens, the musical department, and Christian Education activities. Regular worship services are held every Sunday morning at 11:00 a.m. The church has membership in the Old Eastern Missionary Baptist Association.

PASTORAL DUTIES

- Serve as Senior Pastor and preach the Gospel
- Provide insight for spiritual growth of the church and outreach efforts
- Plan and implement Christian education opportunities for the membership
- Serve as an ex-officio member of all church auxiliaries
- Provide leadership to associate ministers affiliated with the church

QUALIFICATIONS

- Must be saved and have a personal rela-

tionship with the Lord

- Must be ordained to preach and be able to serve as an administrator of a local congregation
 - Must possess interpersonal skills that facilitate interaction with church members and various community resources
 - Must possess leadership abilities
 - Must have personal stamina and enthusiasm to encourage the spiritual growth of the congregation
 - Must have at least two years of experience in church leadership in some capacity and some Bible school training
- Resumes will be accepted until the position is filled. To apply, send resume to the attention of Mrs. Vesta Mullins, Chairperson of the Pastoral Search Committee, at the church's address. For more information call Rev. Carolyn Squires, Committee Co-Chairperson at 252-638-4726.
836 Green Street
P.O. Box 12881
New Bern, NC 28560
252-633-2388

PHILLIPS CHAPEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH – Winston-Salem, NC: Dr. Stephen Tyrone Thornton was called to Phillips Chapel Missionary Baptist Church in April, 2002. He was called home to be with the Lord October 21, 2002. May God rest his soul! Phillips Chapel Missionary Baptist Church in Winston-Salem, NC, is seeking a senior pastor, spiritual leader, counselor and administrator. Interested persons should

submit a letter of interest and a resume no later than January 15, 2003.

The successful candidate will have the following qualifications:

- Must be born-again, spirit filled, divinely called minister with strong family and community values
- Must possess the willingness to follow the By-Laws governing the church
- Must have knowledge of Baptist doctrines, church policies and procedures and be willing to follow such
- Must be a licensed, ordained Baptist minister
- Must have demonstrated the ability to perform the duties of a Senior Pastor
- Must have a minimum of a Bachelor's degree in Religion, Religious Studies, Theology, or Divinity from an accredited college, university, or divinity school
- Must be willing to work with all age groups with particular interest in the spiritual growth and development of our youth
- Must be able to develop and share a vision for the future growth and development of the church
- Must visit and commune with sick, shut-in and bereaved families

All applicants must provide the following information:

- Copy of college degree(s), certificates of license and ordination
- Proof of completion of ALL accredited theological training
- Name, address and telephone number of (4) personal and professional references with no more than (2) coming from other ministers

All materials should be forwarded to:

Dr. Ernie Wade
Chairman, Pulpit Committee
Phillips Chapel Missionary Baptist Church
132 N. Glenn Avenue, Winston-Salem, NC 27105

MORRIS STREET BAPTIST CHURCH – Charleston, SC: seeks to fill the position of Assistant Pastor for the Church. The applicant must be of irreproachable Christian character and possess leadership skills. Applicants must have a Bachelor of Arts degree and additional theological studies. Preference will be given to applicants with prior experience as a pastor or assistant pastor in a Baptist Church. The applicant will be required to demonstrate competency in teaching and preaching and to perform other functions related to the pastorate.

Interested applicants should submit a letter of application with resume, references and credentials on or before January 15, 2003 to:

Morris Street Baptist Church
Attention: Search Committee
Irving Robinson, Vice-Chairman
25 Morris Street
Charleston, SC 29403

METROPOLITAN BAPTIST CHURCH – Rocky Mount, NC: currently accepting resumes from ministers interest-

ed in serving as Pastor of the church. Metropolitan Baptist Church was founded in May 1965 and recently celebrated its 37th anniversary. The congregation has only had 3 pastors in its history, with the Pastor Emeritus serving for 25 years prior to retiring. The most recent pastor served for five years. The church has a membership of 500 members.

Metropolitan Baptist Church is located in Rocky Mount, North Carolina, which is located 45 miles east of Raleigh, North Carolina. Rocky Mount is considered a regional center for eastern North Carolina with a population of 58,000. The racial makeup is 57 percent African-American.

The congregation is seeking an ordained missionary Baptist minister with 5 to 10 years experience as a senior pastor or associate pastor. The educational background of the candidate should include an undergraduate degree in theology or related area of study, however, a Masters of Divinity is preferred. Successful candidates should possess ability to work with all age groups and auxiliaries in the church, possess excellent communication skills, and possess the skills and ability to develop and strengthen the various internal ministries of the church and community outreach programs. Pastor's salaries and benefits are negotiable.

The closing date for submitting a resume is January 15, 2003.

Please send inquiries and resumes to: Pastor Search Committee, Metropolitan Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1952, Rocky Mount, NC 27801.

Oakey Grove Missionary Baptist Church – Clayton, NC: currently accepting applications for a Pastor with strong Missionary Baptist roots. We are affiliated with the Johnston District Missionary Baptist Association and the General Baptist State Convention. Interested applicants should provide the following:

1. A resume
 2. Personal references
- Send information to:
Oakey Grove Baptist Church
Pulpit Search Committee
Deacon Loomis Hodges, Chairperson
PO Box 2435
Smithfield, NC 27577

MOUNT CARMEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH – Elizabeth City, NC: currently accepting applications for a Pastor. The church is located in Hertford County. Interested applicants should provide the following:

1. A Resume
 2. A copy of religious credentials: License/Ordination
 3. Two personal references (no family references)
- Send information to:
Mount Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church
Pastor Search Committee
ATTN: Deacon Eugene White

PULPIT VACANCY

NEW LIGHT MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH HALLSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA

NEW LIGHT MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH IS NOW ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR A PASTOR. OUR WORSHIP SERVICES ARE EACH SUNDAY OF THE MONTH.

QUALIFICATIONS:

Must be a licensed ordained Missionary Baptist Minister.

- Full of Holy Ghost. Led by the Spirit of God in all matters.
- Full of wisdom, knowledge and understand the office of Pastor and performs it according to the scriptures and the needs of the church.
- Must be Association minded.
- Prefer having experience as a Pastor.
- The husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behavior.
- One that rules his own house, having a good report.
- Knows the doctrine of a Missionary Baptist Church
- Must attend meetings of different auxiliaries in the church to become familiar with the organizations, whenever possible.
- Must visit the sick and shut-in when possible.
- Must attempt to become involved with the various programs that the church participates in outside the home church calendar.

Send resumes and inquiries to:

Deacon Kenneth Bracey
1025 Red Bug Rd.
Hallsboro, North Carolina 28442
910-646-4467

CLASSIFIEDS

815 Swains Mill Road
Harrellsville, NC 27942

UNION GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH,
Warrenton, NC: currently accepting applications for a Pastor. Interested applicants should provide the following:

A Resume
Send information to:
Brother Alonza Jones, Board Chairman
Pastor Search Committee
Route 2, Box 128
Norlina, NC 27563

FIRST MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH Thomasville, NC: currently accepting applications for a Pastor with strong Missionary Baptist roots. We are affiliated with the Johnston District Missionary Baptist Association and the General Baptist State Convention, interested applicants should provide a resume. Send information to:
Tanya M. Autry, Chairperson
Pastor Search Committee
First Missionary Baptist Church
103 Church Street
Thomasville, NC 27360

EBENEZER BAPTIST CHURCH –
Neburgh, NY: currently accepting applications for Senior Pastor with strong Baptist roots. The Committee will provide each candidate with an application packet. Send request to:
Ebenezer Baptist Church
ATTN: Deacon Milton
Buxton/Confidential
PO Box 248
Newburgh, NY 12551-0248

SHADY GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH –
East Spencer, NC: currently accepting applications for a Pastor with strong

Missionary Baptist roots. Interested applicants should provide the following:

1. A resume
 2. at least four references: (2) business (2) personal
 3. A copy of religious credentials: License/Ordination
- Send information to:
Shady Grove Baptist Church
ATTN: Clarence A. Jones, Chairperson
PO Box 447
East Spencer, NC 28039

EASTERN STAR MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH – Tarboro, NC: seeking a pastor.

- He must be experienced
 - Well seasoned
 - He must live by the word of God
 - Willing to teach Sunday school and bible study class
 - Must be between the age of 25-55
- Please submit resume to:
Pulpit Committee
Eastern Star Missionary Baptist Church
Post Office Box 1677
Tarboro, North Carolina 27886

FOSTER MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH – Rocky Mount, NC: The Pulpit Search Committee of the Foster Memorial Missionary Baptist Church located in Rocky Mount, North Carolina, is accepting resume for the position of pastor. Applicants must possess the following qualifications:

- He must possess good moral and ethical conduct, living by Timothy 3:1-1, Titus 1:7-9 and abstain from study activities and inclinations as those cited in Romans 1:26-27.
- He must have a minimum of three (3) years experience as pastor with demonstrated ability in counseling and supervising all

work for the church.

- He must live in the proximity of the church.
- He must be born again, filled with the Holy Spirit and called by God to preach God's word.
- He must possess a strong knowledge of the Missionary Baptist Doctrine, Church Policies, and Practices, and be willing to abide by them.
- He must have the skills required to work with all age groups, with special emphasis on the youth.
- He must have the skills required for planning and implementing a vision for spiritual, physical and financial growth of the church. — He must be community oriented, and have strong family values.
- He must have a minimum of a high school diploma preferably a degree or courses in seminary training from an accredited college or university.
- He must be willing to attend Sunday School, Prayer Meetings, and teach Bible Study.

Please send resume to:
Foster Memorial Missionary Baptist Church, 1911 South Church Street
Post Office Box 6317
Rocky Mount, NC 2802-6317
C/O The Pulpit Committee
Trustee Hiawatha Knight

MOUNT CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH – Shelby, NC: currently accepting applications for a pastor with strong Missionary Baptist roots. The Church is affiliated with the Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Association, and the General Baptist State Convention of N.C. Interested applicants should provide the following:
Resume (including pastor experiences and educational qualifications)
A copy of religious credentials (license/ordination)
At least three personal references (no family)

Send information to:
Pastor Search Committee
Mount Calvary Baptist Church
P.O. Box 3181
Shelby, N.C. 28151-3181

HOPPERS CHAPEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH – Shelby, NC: now accepting resumes for the position of pastor. Potential candidates must be a born again Christian with strong Baptist roots. Hoppers Chapel is a member of the Ebenezer Baptist Association. All applicants must possess the following qualifications.

- Must be ordained and licensed
- Must have at least 1 yr. Pastoral experience
- Must provide credentials of theological training
- Must be an effective teacher and counselor
- Must possess extensive knowledge of Baptist Doctrine
- Provide a mission statement for the

church

- Live in close proximity to the church
- The applicant must have the ability to plan and implement a growth strategy for both the spiritual and physical growth of the church.

Send all resumes to:
Hoppers Chapel Missionary Baptist Church
C/O Pulpit Committee
415 West Graham St.
Shelby, N.C. 28150

CHURCH STAFF

MUSICIANS:

BASIC REQUIREMENTS FOR SERVICE:

1. Born-again Christian, Spirit-filled, and divinely gifted in music ministry.
2. Willingness to spiritually align the music ministry with Pastoral vision.
3. Able to play the piano, keyboard and/or organ; able to read music and versatile.
4. Able to prepare choirs for Sunday morning worship services and other services.
5. Able to teach, as, well as direct choirs, with humility and love.
6. Able to rehearse with all choirs on schedule, and available for all Sunday services.
7. Able to accompany Pastor and choirs to other services as required (or ensure qualified substitute is available).
8. Able to select appropriate hymns and songs for worship.

ST. JAMES BAPTIST CHURCH -
Greensboro, NC: Seeks Minister of Music with the following requirements:

- Born-again Christian, Spirit-filled, divinely gifted in music ministry
- Willingness to spiritually align the music ministry with Pastoral vision
- Ability to play piano, keyboard and/or organ, ability to read music and versatile
- Ability to prepare choirs for Sunday morning worship service and other services
- Ability to teach, as well as direct choirs, with humility and love
- Ability to rehearse with all choirs on schedule, and available for all Sunday services.

- Ability to accompany Pastor and choirs to other services as required (or assure qualified substitute is available)
 - Ability to select appropriate hymns and songs for worship
 - Has the God given ability to work with diverse groups and personalities.
 - Preferably a degree in music
 - Must be trustworthy, punctual, and fair in all of service to the congregation
- Duties include: Be prepared for worship service and rehearsals; Be on time for worship service and rehearsals; Make sure instruments are in good condition at all times for performances; Have immediate access to "Baptist Hymnals" at all times; Be receptive to spontaneous input of members; Have cordial spirit in presenting rehearsal strategy; Be flexible in presenta-

Pulpit Vacancy Bazzel Creek Missionary Baptist Church Fuquay-Varina, North Carolina

Bazzel Creek Missionary Baptist Church is seeking a pastor to serve as a spiritual leader, teacher, and counselor for its congregation. The following qualifications must be met for this position:

- Ordained, born-again licensed Missionary Baptist minister
- Good moral values - family oriented
- Trained in Missionary Baptist Doctrine
- Must be a compromiser
- Must be experienced (3-5 years as a Pastor or an Associate)
- BA Degree from an accredited institution of higher learning/seminary
- Must be self-sufficient/employed
- Leadership, organizational, administrative, and communications skills/good public relation skills/community/church
- Willingness to work with the community, be affiliated with state, local, and national Baptist Conventions and Associations
- Must be able to communicate with people of all ages.

Send resumes and inquiries to: Bazzel Creek Missionary Baptist Church, Pastoral Search Committee, Attn: Deacon John R. Greene, P.O. Box 1295, Fuquay-Varina, NC 27526.

Resume deadline is February 28, 2003

tion; Be mindful of time; Adjust accordingly; Try to be available for engagements representing St. James outreach ministry; Implement new strategies and methods gradual, so growth can be achieved. All applicants send resume to:
St. James Baptist Church
Attention Rev. King and Music Committee
536 West Florida Street
Greensboro, NC 27406

CHURCH MUSICIAN – Kittrell, NC: The Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church of Kittrell, North Carolina, is seeking a person to serve as church musician.

⇒ **Qualifications:**

- Christian-oriented, spiritually-filled, divinely gifted in music ministry
- Able and willing to accompany the pastor and choirs to other services
- Available for all Sunday services
- Willing and able to rehearse with all choirs on a regular schedule
- Willing to spiritually align the music ministry with the pastor's vision
- Willing and able to reach and direct choirs
- Able to select appropriate hymns and songs for worship

⇒ **Salary is negotiable**

All interested persons should send a cover letter with a resume *along with a recorded tape or CD of your work to:*
Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church
ATTN: Musician Committee
P.O. Box 175
Kittrell, North Carolina 27544
All completed application packages must be postmarked by January 31, 2003.
No application packages will be accepted or considered after January 31, 2003.

MINISTER OF MUSIC WANTED
SPRINGFIELD BAPTIST CHURCH – Stanley, NC:

- A Spirit-filled leader – skilled in the Word
- Child of God
- Faithful and committed to God's program

- The gift to play by ear with or without the accompaniment of other musicians
 - Has the ability to read and teach music
 - Plays versatile music – which includes hymns, spirituals, contemporary gospel and praise songs
 - Available to accompany the pastor and choirs to other churches when and as needed
 - Available for all rehearsals and Sunday Worship service
- Please contact: Melissa Fanning – (H) 704-563-3230 or Pastor Theodore Armstrong – Church 704-263-4426

MINISTER OF MUSIC NEEDED – Wake Forest, NC: congregation seeks musician. 1) The duties include working directly with the Pastor in order to assist and cooperate with him in Christian Worship, 2.) Playing during Sunday morning worship service, 3). Rehearsing with various choirs one night per week, 4.) And accompanying the Pastor on engagements to other churches. Please forward a cover letter and resume to:
Evans Grove Missionary Baptist Church
12700 Creedmoor Road
Highway 50
Wake Forest, NC 27587
(919) 870-8874

MINISTER OF MUSIC VACANCY:
THE SPRING GREEN MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH – Warrenton, NC: seeks a Minister of Music to provide musical direction and accompaniment for 4 choirs in the church. This person will work closely with the Pastor to provide spiritual leadership in the ministry of Jesus Christ through music, i.e. hymns, spiritual songs, and praise and worship music that glorifies God.

We are accepting resumes from candidates with the appropriate qualifications. (Specific qualifications listed in beginning of staff musician section.)
For additional information please send

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06. Dangerous Minds
07. Don't Even Think About It
08. Fired Up By The Holy Ghost
09. Are You Full Of The Stuff
10. Let's Get On Board
11. God Picked Me To Be On His Side
12. Grace On The Race
13. Grow Up Or Blow Up
14. Hang In There
15. He Lifted Me Up Out Of The Miry Clay
16. Look Where The Lord Has Brought Me From
17. If My People
18. We Can Do It For A New Day Has Come
19. I Know What Prayer Can Do
20. Put Some Clothes On Child
21. A Right Thing In A Wrong Time
22. The Man Who Had Everything But The Right Thing
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48. Jesus! Jesus! Jesus! He Is Somebody's Preacher

49. On The Day Of Pentecost
50. Jesus Is All That! And A Whole Lot More
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53. Black Men And Women, Young And Old, Changing A Generation
54. I Am Black But I Am Somebody
55. Staying Afloat In A Sinking Boat
56. He That Has A Friend Must Show Himself Friendly
57. Victory Is Mine
58. Occupy Till I Come
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60. Busy In God's Business
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63. What The World Needs Now Is Love Sweet Love
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66. What Do You Do When Life Is Not Fair
67. Why Do Bad Things Happen To Good People
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81. Committed Because I Am Submitted
82. Are You A Disciplined Disciple
83. Answering God's Call
84. Too Blessed To Be Stressed
85. Thrilled By His Will
86. These Things Only Come By Prayer And Fasting
87. Just Like Daddy
88. I Got Two Wings And The World Can't Do Me No Harm
89. The Prayer Of Jabez
90. I Will Meet You On The Other Side
91. Can't Come Right Now, I Am On Duty
92. What A Mighty God We Serve
93. When Life Makes You Wonder
94. Fighting The Good Fight

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inquiry or resume to:

Spring Green Missionary Baptist Church
PO Box 924, Warrenton, NC 2589
Rev. Dennis G. Lindsay, Pastor

MUSICIAN NEEDED – Oakboro, NC:
Must be a Christian available to serve every Sunday. Prepare Choirs and Praise Team for Sunday morning worship. Rehearse with choirs on scheduled times. Be available to accompany Pastor and choirs to church functions. Direct congregation in congregational hymns. Must be able to play by ear as well as read music

To apply call:
(704) 532-6813 or E-mail to
GalileeNC@aol.com
Galilee Missionary Baptist Church
PO. Box 644, Oakboro, NC 28129

CHURCH MUSICIAN VACANCY:

FIRST MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH – Selma, NC: seeks musician for youth choir. Must be a Christian with good character.

Requirements:

- Play the organ and piano

- Able to play sacred and gospel music
- Read music and have the ability to play by ear

Send resume to:
Reverend S. Manfred Isom, Pastor
415 Star Ruby Drive
Knightdale, NC 27545

MINISTER OF MUSIC NEEDED:
THE PENN AVENUE MOUNT OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH – Lewiston, NC: seeking a musician for a station church, a Christian, who is responsible, has good character and a good reputation.

Requirements:

- *Plays the organ and piano
- *Able to work with a diverse group of singers
- *Experienced in all sacred music
- *Reads music and is versatile in playing by ear

Send resumes or responses to:
Mount Olive Baptist Church
PO Box 214
Lewiston-Woodville, NC 27849
Attention: William W. Peele, Jr.

MINISTER OF MUSIC WANTED:
THE PENN AVENUE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH – Oxford, NC: currently seeking a Minister of Music.

QUALIFICATIONS:

(Specific qualifications listed in beginning of staff musician section.)

*Will be responsible with the pastor's approval in hiring other musicians if deemed necessary.

Salary: Negotiable

Sunday worship services. Service begins each Sunday at 11 a.m. with the exception of 5th Sunday services which begin at 10 a.m. Please send resume to the above listed address or inquiries may be made by calling one of the above listed numbers.

CHURCH MUSICIAN NEEDED

– Warren County, NC: Knowledge of music and the ability to play by ear is appreciated. Presently, morning worship service is held every fourth (4th) Sunday, but we are considering an additional Sunday for services. Must be able to play for youth choir and adult choir. Church is located in Warren County, North Carolina. For further information, please call:
(252) 257-0221

CHURCH MUSICIAN: THE CEDAR GROVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

– Gibson, NC: seeking a person to serve as Church Musician. Qualifications: (Specific qualifications listed in beginning of staff musician section.) Salary negotiable. Please send resume to Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Church at this address.

Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Church
14600 Railroad St.
Gibson, NC 28343

CHURCH MUSICIAN:

THE FRIENDSHIP MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH – High Point, NC: accepting resumes for a Church Musician. Qualifications: (Specific qualifications listed in beginning of staff musician section.) Salary negotiable.

715 West Willis Ave.
High Point, NC 27260

THE GREATER PINEY GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH – Atlanta, GA: seeking an experienced, dynamic worship and praise Minister of Music. We seek a person

who first and foremost has a passion for God and His Word, then a passion for people and for music.

This person will be responsible for directing, managing, and developing all functions and aspects associated with planning and implementing a comprehensive Church Music Ministry.

A person in this position must possess formal training and expertise in the area of music, has excellent organizational skills, and the ability to work cooperatively with a diverse group of people.

EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

Bachelor of Science Degree in Music with concentration in choral, church, or music education, a minimum of two years of work experience as Minister of Music or Minister of Music Assistant in a similar Church environment.

An Instrument skill proficiency test is required on piano and organ. Must possess the ability to organize and prioritize tasks, events, and activities; ability to work under pressure of deadlines; make decisions; and establish effective working relationships with the Pastor, choir members, church members, supervisor, and church community.

•Resumes will be accepted until August 31, 2002. Start date for this position will be December 31, 2002.

•If the Holy Spirit excites you about this opportunity to serve God, and you meet the qualifications and expectations described above, we would love to hear from you. Please e-mail your resume to or mail it to: The Greater Piney Grove Baptist Church
1879 Glenwood Avenue, S.E.
Atlanta, GA 30313
Attn: Personnel Committee

JEFFRIES CROSS BAPTIST CHURCH

– Burlington, NC: Send cover letter and resume to Jeffries Cross Baptist Church, 2015 Jeffries Cross Rd., Burlington, NC 27217. Phone: 336-226-9626. We are currently seeking a musician who will work directly with the pastor to provide spiritual leadership in the music ministry. Qualifications: 1. A Christian with piano, keyboard, organ ability; read music, play chords, teach harmony, direct choirs, conduct two rehearsals per month with four choirs, accompany pastor on engagements, accommodate traditional and contemporary worship styles.

Richard H. Moore
State Treasurer

Dr. Archie Logan, Jr.
Executive Secretary-Treasurer
General Baptist State Convention

Dear Pastor,

The General Baptist State Convention joins Richard H. Moore, State Treasurer, in encouraging your Association and church to identify your unclaimed property. As your State Treasurer and Executive Secretary Treasurer of the General Baptist State Convention, the two of us serve important roles in North Carolina. It is for this reason we want to make you aware of a program that may benefit both your church and its members.

The North Carolina Department of State Treasurer is responsible for administering the "Escheat and Unclaimed Property Program". The purpose of this program is simple; when a company or financial institution is holding money that belongs to a North Carolina resident and that individual cannot be located, the company is required by law to turn the money over to the Department of State Treasurer, where it is held until the rightful owner claims it. This "unclaimed cash" is often the result of forgotten utility deposits, bank accounts, stocks that were purchased, and checks that have not been cashed. Currently, the North Carolina Department of State Treasurer is holding over \$350 million in unclaimed cash that belongs to 1.4 million people and organizations.

It is important that as much of this money as possible gets returned to the rightful owners. In order to do that, we need your help. We hope that you can assist us in getting the word out about this program by letting your church members know it is there and making them aware of how they can check to see if they may be owed money.

The easiest way to find out if your name is on the Unclaimed Property list is to log onto the North Carolina Department of State Treasurer website at www.treasurer.state.nc.us. You then click on the "Unclaimed Property Program" link to get to a page where you can type in your name. We suggest not only checking your name with the proper spelling, but try variations on the spelling of your name, as well. Sometimes the reason money does not get to an individual is because the company sending it has the wrong address or incorrect spelling of the person's name.

It is also important to know that claiming your money through the Department of State Treasurer is completely free. You should be aware that there are services that DO charge a fee to locate any unclaimed funds that may be owed to you. It is not necessary to use these services or to pay a fee to have your money returned. You can claim your money directly from the Department of State Treasurer at no cost.

We believe sharing information regarding the "Unclaimed Property Program" with your church members is a valuable service. Not only will this information help your members to claim any money that they may be owed, but it will also be helpful to your communities as the word travels to relatives, friends and neighbors of your members. We also suggest you check the name of your church to see if money is owed to it. There are thousands of businesses and organizations that have unclaimed cash, and your church may be one of them.

We appreciate your assistance in helping us to make the citizens of North Carolina aware of this program, and look forward to working with you to return as much money as possible to your church members. The General Baptist Foundation is also available to assist you in locating your money at no cost; simply call the Foundation toll free at 1-866-858-7847 or log on to the General Baptist State Convention's website at www.GBSC.org, then click on the [N.C. Department of State Treasurer](http://www.nc.treasurer.state.nc.us) link to access the "Unclaimed Property Program".

Sincerely,

Richard H. Moore
State Treasurer

Dr. Archie Logan, Jr.
Executive Secretary-Treasurer,
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The General Baptist Foundation offers each affiliated church, bookkeeping services to small (0 to 150 members) and medium size churches (150 to 300 members). This assistance includes the following:

Description	# Of Checks Written	GBSC Member Cost	Non-GBSC Member Cost	
Bank Statement Reconciliation	30 or less each month	\$10.00 per week	\$15.00 per week	General Ledger
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Accounting Software Installation on local church computer		\$249.00	\$349.00	Includes 1-Hour Of Training (2)

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Balance Sheet Preparation Cost Is Determined On A Case-By-Case Basis.

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(1) Included in the cost of the Bank Statement Reconciliation Service.

(2) No cost for mileage up to a 30-mile radius from Cary, NC. Cost after the 30-mile radius is calculated and \$1.00 per mile round trip.

If your church would like assistance in this matter, please contact the Foundation toll-free at 1(866) 687-4631 or 1-866-OURGOD1 and ask for a representative to explain the details.

Registration Form

The 30th Annual James Z. Alexander/Albert W. Pegues School Ministers' Conference

Conference Registration

Please complete this Registration Form and MAIL to Shaw University Divinity School, 118 East South Street, Raleigh, N.C. 27601 by March 3, 2003 with your registration fee.

Name _____ Title _____

Home Address _____

Phone/Extension _____

E-Mail Address for acknowledgement of registration _____

Church Affiliation and Pastor _____

Quantity/Unit	Price	Total
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CONFERENCE FEES SUBTOTAL

Early Registration Deadline: March 3, 2003

*Registrations postmarked after March 3, 2003 will be processed as on-site registration and will require additional money to register. On-site Fee: Registration (\$100.00) Seminary Students (\$50.00) **Form required for Cont. Ed. Units; pickup at registration check-in. ***Proof of enrollment required for all seminary students.

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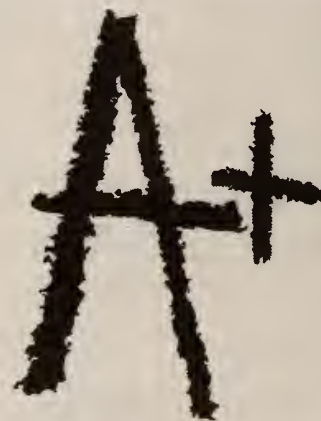
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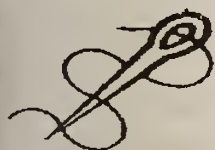
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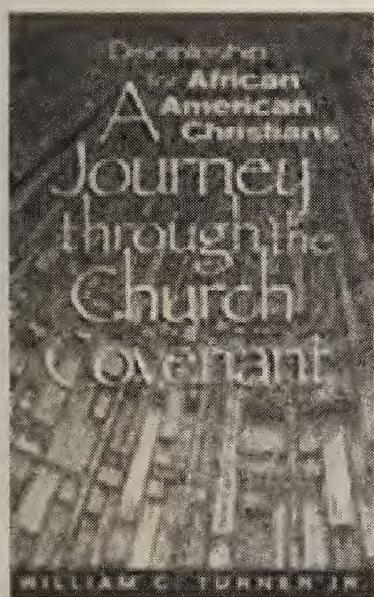
Whether you are seeing it for the first time or have witnessed its glory in past seasons, you will be swept away by the majesty and spirituality of this incredible ballet. *Messiah* achieves spiritual grace through music, chorus and dance. Be captivated as our athletic dancers soar through the air to Handel's sacred score. Spectacular costumes and effects make this dynamic piece an experience to be shared by the whole family. Now performed during the Easter holiday, this inspirational full-length production is a lasting reminder of the power of faith and renewal.

In April 2002, Carolina Ballet performed *Messiah* to an international audience at the II Dance World Festival in Budapest, Hungary.

"... Weiss has developed a neoclassical ballet containing realistic movements from the life and death of Jesus ... it is powerful, suggestive, and convincing on stage ... is touchingly old-fashioned and timeless at the same time – a ballet from the days when dancing still sought to help the audiences."

–Jochen Schmidt, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

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These discipleship studies take one of the most visible documents in black Baptist churches as an occasion to reflect on the meaning of the Christian walk for today's believers. An ideal resource for new church members or for others who want to understand more about the nature of the faith they are proclaiming, this thorough discipleship resource ends each chapter with a summary of key points, as well as questions for reflection intended to help readers understand and apply the lessons

found in the chapter. William Turner uses the Church Covenant, a short statement of faith that many African American Baptists have committed to memory, as a vehicle for teaching the Baptist faith, with special attention paid to how the Covenant is grounded in the person, work, and experience of the Holy Spirit. Each chapter is based on a phrase from the Covenant itself and explores the Scriptural foundations for the phrase and the belief expressed in it. Discipleship for African American Christians is ideal for personal or small-group study, as well as for Christian education and Sunday school settings.

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BAPTIST INFORMER

Volume 126, No. 4

Publication of the General Baptist State Convention of N.C., Inc.
Voice of 500,000 North Carolina Baptists

April 2003

Statewide Evangelism Conference April 8-11, 2003

Special Guests: Dr. J.S. Ratliff, Houston, TX; Dr. Harold A. Carter, Sr., Baltimore, MD and Mr. Luther Barnes, Rocky Mount, NC,

By Dr. Robert E. Lee McGowens, Sr., Chairman
Praise God from whom all blessings

flow! The Annual 2003 GBSC Statewide Evangelism Conference will be held April 8-11, 2003 in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. The host church will be Union Baptist Church, 1200 North Trade Street, Dr. Sir. Walter

Mack, Pastor. We have planned an outstanding program designed for spiritual growth, evangelism witness and soul salvation. Our special guests will be the Reverend Dr. Joseph S. Ratliff, Pastor, Brentwood Baptist Church, Houston, TX; the Reverend Dr. Harold A. Carter, Sr., Pastor of the New Shiloh Baptist Church, Baltimore, MD; and Mr. Luther Barnes, Rocky Mount, NC. They are no strangers to North Carolina.

Dr. Ratliff is a native of Lumberton, NC and a son of the State. He has distinguished himself as a scholar-pastor in the African-American tradition of preaching. His church has been a leading congregation in the state of Texas and the nation. He has also been a leader in the areas of community and economic development. Dr. Ratliff holds a Bachelor Degree from Morehouse College in Atlanta; a Master's and Doctor of Divinity Degrees from the Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC). Dr. Ratliff is the chairman of the Board of Trustees of Morehouse School of Religion and ITC. He is a life member of and national chaplain of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Dr. Ratliff is co-author of *Church Planting in the African-*

American Community. He is married to Doris Ernestine Gardner.

Dr. Harold A. Carter, Sr., is a leading preacher, pastor, church builder and author. Dr. Carter has led evangelistic ministries across America and many foreign countries. Dr. Carter's first book, *The Prayer Tradition of Black People* continues to be a standard work on the Black Spiritual Anthology. Ministries seeking Christians to renewal use a more recent work, *"Building Disciples in the Local Church"*. His book, *America, Where Are You Going?* has proven to be a prophetic call to our

nation, so richly blessed by the Christian faith and often ignoring its precepts in contemporary life. Dr. Carter has earned two academic Doctorate Degrees, a Ph.D.

from St. Mary's Ecumenical University, Baltimore, MD, and a Colgate Bexler Hall/Crozer Seminary, Rochester, NY, both awarded in 1987.

Mr. Luther Barnes is one of gospel music's most premier male vocalists. He has performed with the Sunset Jubilaires, the Red Budd Gospel Choir, and the Barnes Family. Mr. Barnes is a composer and performer of great magni-



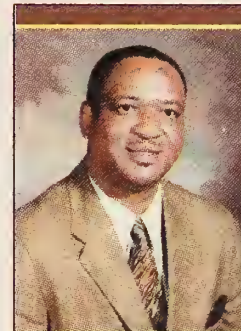
Dr. Robert McGowens



Dr. Joseph S. Ratliff



Dr. Harold A. Carter, Sr.



Dr. Archie Logan, Jr.

PAGE 2
A Christian Response To War
"Christ is our peace"
(Ephesians 2:14-15)

tude. His latest album "Come Fly With Me" is a gospel music hit. He will direct our music ministry. The GBSC Evangelism Statewide Choir will rehearse at 6:00 p.m. Monday, April 7, 2003 at the Union Baptist Church, Winston-Salem, NC. Please call (336) 643-5201, Brother Derrick Wesley or Reverend Dr. S. W. Mack (336) 724-9305 for more informa-

See CONFERENCE, Page 2

GBSC Mid-Year Session To Convene At The Sycamore Hill Missionary Baptist Church, Greenville, NC • May 4-7, 2003

By Dr. Howard Parker
1st Vice-President

Greetings! The entire Greenville, NC area is pleased to receive the General Baptist State Convention of North



Dr. Howard Parker, Jr.

Carolina in its 2003 Mid-Year Session. As 1st Vice President I will serve as host pastor and our church, Sycamore Hill Missionary Baptist Church, 1001 Hooker Road, 252,756-4869, will serve as hosts

along with area churches and associations.

Our local committee is making special provisions for you. We encourage you to make your reservations early. The Mid-Year session will feature, Christian Education class sessions, great preaching, GBSC reports, fellowship and evangelistic opportunities. Join us in dedicated prayer at least one time per day for this convention.

President Charles T. Bullock and Executive Secretary-Treasurer Archie D. Logan, Jr. have asked each church to represent with, at least, \$500. We also will be bringing gifts and pledges to liquidate our debt and to support the J.J. Johnson Baptist Assembly. We need your help to make this session a success.

On Sunday, May 4, 2003, at 7:00 p.m.,

area churches and associations will sponsor the 2003 Mid-Year Pre-Convention concert. We hope to have a mass choir of adults/youths of over 100 voices. The choir will be made up of members from local and area congregations. Several musicians will accompany the choir and it will feature several outstanding soloist and artists. Plan to share-in this musical celebration of joyful praise!

On Monday, May 5, 2003 the Greenville convention Bureau will join us in sponsoring a GBSC golf tournament, prizes and trophies will go to the willing teams. If you are interested in sponsoring a team call Sycamore Hill, to reserve your "Tee Time."

The GBSC Program Committee is

See SESSION, Page 5

1867-2003 • 1867-2003
OUR 136TH YEAR

By Archie D. Logan, Jr.
Executive Secretary-Treasurer

A Christian Response To War "Christ is our Peace" (Ephesians 2:14-15)

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior! Recently I have been reflecting on the pending war more and more. As a denominational leader I am very concerned about the state of affairs in the nation and world. North Carolina is a strategic military center. The armed forces have bases across the State. Many of us minister to military personnel; we all have friends involved in the defense of our country; many of our children and family members serve our government with dignity and honor. As Christians we must answer questions about war and peace. When we come to worship or meet people on the streets, the WAR is a topic of conversation. Many young people have questions about their futures and "What Would Jesus Do" about our current conflicts.

The impending military action by America on Iraq is before us daily, on the news, in the newspaper, and across the Internet. Our President, George W. Bush calls for Iraq to disarm its weapons of mass destruction. Since the tragedy of September 11, 2001, (9/11), when terrorists destroyed the World Trade Twin Towers Building; crashed jets in Washington, DC and Pennsylvania, our government has been on high military alert. The United States is leading a worldwide war on terrorism against terrorist networks, "Islamic militants" and rogue regimes. The President and his military advisors tell us that Iraq is an imminent threat to our country and way of life. Saddam Hussein possesses weapons of mass destruction, which he plans to use or provide to terrorist organi-

zations; North Korea is activating its nuclear program and other nations threaten to end the free world.

The Christian community cannot be silent on issues of war. We must respond to our young people, we must have a

specific Christian position on war. The early church, certain Christian humanists, and the majority of Anabaptists have traditionally taken a non-resistant or pacifist stance on the issue of war. The majority of churches, however, have followed Saint

*The Christian community cannot be silent on issues of war.
We must respond to our young people,
we must have a "word from the Lord".*

"word from the Lord". Leaders of denominations, churches and other religious organizations must speak out as the war drums grow louder. Many of us remember the strong stand that Martin Luther King, Jr., took against the Vietnam War. Some people believe that his positions and outcries against that war resulted in his assassination. Dr. King believed that non-violent Christians should oppose war. The Church teaches that the only two legitimate Christian responses to war are non-violence and a just war. War can be only justified in cases of self-defense and maintaining world stability.

The early church, as a distinct, minority community within a larger community, tended toward pacifism; nevertheless, there have been Christian Holy wars over the centuries. Throughout the scriptures we see war among the children of Israel and their enemies.

Since the New Testament Church emergence Christians have had to respond to wars and rumors of wars. As history demonstrates, it is difficult to formulate a

Augustine and claimed that certain wars are just. Denominations including the Church of the Brethren, Quakers, and Mennonites maintain a non-resistant position, but the larger groups such as Lutherans, Presbyterians, Baptists, Episcopalians, Roman Catholics, Methodists, and Reformed adhere to the just war interpretation. In certain rare instances Christians have even supported crusades. The medieval popes urged such action against the Turks, and in the twentieth century some fundamentalist Protestants in the United States have supported such an attitude toward the Soviet Union and Nazi Germany.

One of the more interesting developments in recent times is the effect that the threat of global conflagration is having on Christian attitudes toward nuclear war. Leaders in many denominations have come to realize that the use of nuclear weapons makes a mockery of the just war position because employing the weapon automatically results in the slaughter of non-combatants, (innocent men, women and children are killed). In the minds of these "nuclear pacifists" such weapons invalidate war as a rational policy. It is one thing for military personnel to engage in battle but another for innocent bystanders to be harmed. Also religious bodies now wrestle with the ethics of war. The introduction of germ warfare and the

possibility of global destruction of human life are issues of grave concern.

In the New Testament, Jesus Christ spoke of peace as a combination of hope, trust, and quiet in the mind and soul, brought about by reconciliation with God. The host of angels proclaimed such peace at Christ's birth (Luke 2:14), and by Christ Himself in His SERMON ON THE MOUNT (Matthew 5:9) and during His ministry. Jesus also taught about this kind of peace at the Lord's Supper, shortly before His death (John 14:27). The purpose of Christ's coming into the world was to bring spiritual peace with God (Luke 1:79; 2:14; 24:36; Mark 5:34; 9:50). The essence of the Gospel may be expressed in the term "peace" (Acts 10:36; Ephesians 6:15). The innumerable blessings of the Christian revolve around the concept of peace. The Gospel is the Gospel of Peace (Ephesians 6:15). Christ is our peace (Ephesians 2:14-15); God the Father is the God of peace (1 Thessalonians 5:23).

Let me suggest several activities for us to consider.

- Discuss the fact that God is in control of the world order.
- Organize reflection groups at your church to discuss issues on the war and peace.
- Help young people find Christian meaning in their lives and future.
- Invite government and military persons to your church to discuss our war policy.
- Create special prayer focus groups for peace.
- Help people define a non-violent ministry.
- Become a pen pal of someone in the military.
- Identify persons in your congregation who are on active duty.
- Debate the cost of war in terms of death and destruction.
- Learn more about the peace that Jesus Christ proclaimed.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY
FOR GLOBAL PEACE!

CONFERENCE, Cont'd From Page 1

tion. Please come and join the choir; all are welcome.

Program Highlights

Registration open at 12 noon, April 8, 2003, Union Baptist Church, 1200 North Trade Street, Winston-Salem, NC

For information (800) 639-GBSC 6:00 p.m. Monday, April 7, Union Baptist Church, GBSC Statewide Evangelism Choir rehearsal, call (336) 724-9305 for information.

2:00 p.m. Tuesday, April 8, the conference will begin with evangelism committee meeting and incensory prayer session. 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, April 8, (School of Evangelism), Dr. Joseph S. Ratliff. 8:00 p.m. Tuesday, April 8, Conference Preacher, Dr. Harold A. Carter, Sr. 12 Noon, Wednesday, April 9, (GALILEE BAPTIST CHURCH Special Session - Feeding the Homeless and

Ministry Outreach Presentations/Health & Welfare Services)

6:00 p.m. Wednesday, April 9, (School of Evangelism), Dr. Joseph S. Ratliff.

8:00 p.m. Wednesday, April 9, Conference Preacher, Dr. Harold A. Carter, Sr. 1:00 p.m. Thursday, April 10, (Cherry Street Correctional Center - Prison Ministry) 6:00 p.m. Thursday, April 10, (School of Evangelism), Dr. Joseph S. Ratliff. 8:00 p.m. Thursday, April 10, Conference Preacher, Dr. Harold A. Carter, Sr.

WE WILL HAVE THE LORD'S SUPPER DURING WORSHIP. ALL ORDAINED CLERGY, PLEASE BRING YOUR WHITE ROBES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SERVICE.

7:00 p.m. Friday night, April 11, Youth Program.

Registration is \$250.00 which includes up to 10 messengers. Thank you for your support.

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THEME: "By the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness..." (II Corinthians 6:7)

By Dr. Charles T. Bullock

What Shall I render unto the Lord for all of his benefits toward me? I will take the cup of salvation and call upon the name of the Lord. I will pay my vows unto the



Dr. Charles Bullock

Lord now in the presence of all of his people" (Psalm 116:12-14).

To the General Baptist State Convention family, let us take time to study Psalm 116 with special emphasis on the verses printed above.

This Psalm contains the testimony of every sincere believer who has experienced the rich blessings of God's grace. When we consider the goodness of God and how he has blessed us, we should ask the question the Psalmist asked, "What shall I render unto the Lord for all of his benefits toward me?" Not only should we ask this

What Shall I Render Unto The Lord?

question, we should make a firm decision on how we will respond to the question and what we will render unto the Lord as we serve THE PRESENCE AGE. This, is a personal question and we should answer it personally. As a body of baptized believers, we must answer it collectively.

There are several things we can do as we respond to the question. First, we can put our complete faith and trust in the

"What shall I render unto the Lord for all of his benefits toward me?"

Lord. For we are told in Psalm 37 to "Trust in the Lord, and do good; so shall thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed. Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart." If we refuse to trust the promises of God, we insult God and deprive ourselves of the blessings of God. Secondly, we can give of our financial resources and invest the tithe in the Lord's work. The Lord has promised rich

blessings to those who trust Him enough to tithe. Where we can trust God on a physical and economic level, then we can trust Him more fully in the spiritual realm. When we obey God, he will pour out special blessings on us. He tells us to "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, says

the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it" (Mal. 3:10).

As we continue to labor in ministry for kingdom building in these uncertain times, let us seek and follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is through the guidance of the Holy Spirit that we will effectively and conscientiously serve the Present Age.

The Holy Season 2003 "Christ Compelled By A Purpose"

To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. John 18:37

By Dr. Archie D. Logan, Jr.,
Executive Secretary-Treasurer

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and risen Savior! During the month of March 2003 and up to the week of April 13th we will be celebrating Lent 2003. It is important that we dedicate special time in our lives each day to prepare ourselves for Holy Week 2003 and the celebration of Easter. Join us in prayer, meditation and spiritual purification. Holy Week this year will be April 13-20, 2003. Early Easter Sunday morning Jesus rose will ALL power! (Matthew 28:18).

Lent is the forty-day period - plus six Sundays, of penitence and prayer, which begins on Ash Wednesday and prepares for the Christian celebration of Eastertide. Lent is the time that Christians use to remember the final sacrifice Jesus Christ made at Calvary for the remission of our sins (Matthew 26:20-30). Often our GBSC Evangelism Conference and Laymen's League Mid-Annual Session falls during the Lenten Season, it is a time that we come together and praise GOD for His precious SON. April 8-11, 2003 and April 12, 2003 we will have our GBSC Evangelism Conference and Laymen's session in Winston-Salem, NC, during Lent. What an opportunity for blessings!

"Christ was compelled by a purpose" (John 18:37). As Christians we should share our lives with a purpose too. Our convention has a mission and purpose to promote Kingdom Building and Soul Salvation. We reflect on the memorable

events in the life of Christ as HE meets death, hell and the grave face to face. Lent heightens the coming event. We believe our faith deepens; our hope is renewed and our joy confirmed. Lent "liberates" us; it frees us for fellowship with others. Lent reminds us that there are meaningful, important religious values in life. We can find purpose in our spiritual journey. As Christians we seek a nurturing change of heart during Lent in our relationships with God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit.

Prayer, meditation, self-discipline, self-sacrifice, self-denial characterize the season of Lent. Lent prepares us for Easter. Easter is a feast or festival of the Christian church that commemorates the resurrection of Christ. It is observed and celebrated on the first Sunday following the full moon that occurs on or after March 21 - or one week later if the full moon falls on Sunday. In other words, Easter falls between March 22 and April 25. This year we will celebrate Easter on April 20, 2003. As early as the eighth century the name, EASTER, was used to designate the annual Christian celebration of the resurrections of Christ. This holy Season 2003 is a blessed opportunity for us to renew our lives; seek forgiveness of sin; and thank God for grace and mercy.

In the African-American church Lent, Holy Week and Easter are a joyful time of celebration, personal and church renewal. On behalf of GBSC President Charles T. Bullock, Convention vice presidents, officers and the entire GBSC headquarters family we pray that each of you have a meaningful Lenten journey, Holy week and Easter celebration. Pray for the "work".

UPCOMING SESSIONS

- ◆ **April 8-11, 2003** **Annual Statewide Evangelism Conference**
Union Baptist Church 1200 N. Trade St., Winston-Salem, NC
Host Pastor: Rev. Sir Walter Mack, 336-724-9305
Rev. Robert McGowen, Evangelism Chairman
- ◆ **April 11-12, 2003** **Laymen's Mid-Annual Banquet**
 Mid Annual One-Day Session
St. Stephens Missionary Baptist Church
5000 Noble St., Winston-Salem, NC
Host Pastor: Rev. Joseph Samuels, 336-744-7279
Mr. John Gladden, Laymen's President
- ◆ **April 24-26, 2003** **Statewide Church Music Conference**
First Baptist Church, 302 Moore St., Fayetteville, NC
Host Pastor: Rev. Cureton Johnson, 910-483-6505
Mr. David Eggleston, Music Coordinator
- ◆ **May 5-7, 2003** **136th Mid-Year Annual Session**
Sycamore Hill Baptist Church, Greenville, NC
Host Pastor: Dr. Howard Parker, 252-756-4898
- ◆ **May 17, 2003** **Laymen's Mini-Skills Exhibit**
JJ Johnson Baptist Assembly, Laurel Hill, NC, 910-462-3440
Mr. John Gladden, Laymen's President
- ◆ **July 17-19, 2003** **GBSC Unity Session**
Second Calvary Baptist Church, 114 Nelson Ave., Charlotte, NC, 704-398-0147
- ◆ **October 26-30, 2003** **GBSC Annual Session**
Ebenezer Baptist Church, 2020 W. Sugar Creek Rd., Charlotte, NC
Host Pastor: Leonzo Lynch, 704-598-2219

THE BIBLE STUDY MANUAL

is a first in a series developed by

Jimmie and Deloris Whitehurst, *Creative Christian Educators.*

The manual presents a clear "Straight Forward" approach to several key doctrines and current issues facing the church today.

The manual presents 29 lessons and outlines for Comprehensive Bible Studies, \$15.95 a copy. **Send check or money order to:**
Dr. Jimmie Whitehurst, P.O. Box 31093, Raleigh, NC 27622.

The Mission of the General Baptist State Convention of N.C.

By Dr. John H. Grant
Vice President At Large

"This Convention shall undertake to promote and support Home and Foreign



Dr. John H. Grant

Missions, Christian and Higher Christian Education, ministerial relief, church building and development, social Christian services, publication and distribution of Baptist Children literature; support

children in the state of North Carolina who are in need of care, the study and distribution of the Bible, to cooperate with other Missionary Baptist organizations to carry out the spirit of the Convention and engage in whatever other Christian endeavors as were deemed necessary to advance the Kingdom of God.

"To enhance Christian fellowship among the Baptists of North Carolina in cooperation with the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and to form a brotherly tie with Baptists and Christians around the world."

What is often overlooked, hardly if ever mentioned in the meetings of our Executive Committee, General Board, Mid-Year and Annual Sessions, is the mission of our Convention.

"Organizations are founded to meet a need; that need is the mission of the

organization."² If we seldom mention, or lose focus on the mission, then we lose focus on the need. If we lose focus on the need, then we fail to meet the need for which our Convention was founded. I submit the mission statement as a reminder of why our Convention exists.

As part of our governance responsibilities, General Board members are charged "to be keepers, watchers, challengers, revisers, and champions of the mission."³ If we don't, then any program or project is likely to take us to wherever it is we are going! There is a need to remind ourselves of our stated mission by revisiting, reviewing and reflecting on it.

Our model is our Lord Jesus Christ who left his church with a very specific and focused mission in Matthew 28:18-20, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you, and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." (NKJV) There are, and have always been, many diversionary voices throughout history attempting to detract and divert the church's focus away from its divinely designated mission. The church, however, has had to persevere in its persistence on remaining focused. Otherwise, all sorts of alien agendas will be imposed upon her.

Does every Board member know our mission? Does every Board decision relate to our mission? I invite Executive Committee and General Board members to ponder these questions as you reflect

See GRANT, Page 5

From the Desk of the Second Vice-President

By Reverend Nilous M. Avery, II — M. Div.

To the beloved saints of the General Baptist family and all who love the Lord:

"Grace, mercy, and peace from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord" (1

Timothy 1:2b, NKJV).



Rev. Nilous Avery, II

Throughout His earthly ministry, Jesus had a knack for glorifying the common things and common people. He defended the defenseless, healed the afflicted,

received the outcasts, ate with the sinners, delivered the downtrodden, elevated the oppressed, gave worth to women, loved the lepers —

you name it, Jesus did it. He shook up the foundation of political correctness and religious self-piety.

Because of Jesus, many insignificant things took on new significance. Light, salt, sparrows, lilies, a crown of thorns, an old rugged cross, a borrowed tomb, bread and wine. Nothing was too small ... nobody was too insignificant to merit the attention of our Lord. This brings to mind the fact that in a few weeks, spring will break forth in all of its splendor. New life will appear in all of its colorful glory. The handiwork of God will once again provide a marvelous array of greenery and pageantry.

In all of this, the common dandelion will make its presence felt. The dandelion is interesting. It will grow where nothing else will. It is not prejudiced, picky, nor persnickety about where it will

See AVERY, Page 5

Institutional & Specialized Ministries

by Dr. Howard W. Parker, Jr.

First Vice President

In last month's article I shared information with you from our Institutional & Specialized Ministries (formerly the

Prison Ministries). The following information gives further knowledge about the North Carolina Department of Corrections from the year 2001.

Offender Demographics - 12/31/00

		Prison	Probation	Parole
Sex	Male	29,617	85,212	3,831
	Female	1,917	23,430	307
Race	White	10,182	49,011	1,580
	Black	19,913	52,218	2,382
	Other	1,439	7,413	176
Age	Under 20	1,337	10,228	36
	20-29	11,469	41,168	1,276
	30-39	10,476	31,913	1,524
	40-49	5,994	18,843	932
	50 & over	2,258	6,490	370
TOTAL		31,534	108,642	4,138

For more information of the North Carolina Department of Correction call: 919-716-3700 or visit www.doc.state.nc.us

CITY HOTEL & BISTRO

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1-877-271-2616 • Fax 252-355-3062

RESERVATION FORM for General Baptist State Convention of N.C.

Hotel rooms have been held for May 4-7th, 2003. The rates for doubles and kings are \$49.00. These rooms must be reserved before April 4, 2003. Check in time is 3pm; check out is 11 am.

You can fill out this form and return it to the hotel, via fax, mail or you can call the toll free reservation line (1-877-271-2616) to reserve your rooms. When making reservations please inform the hotel that you are with the General Baptist State Convention of N.C. (BAPT).

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Business Phone _____ Home Phone _____

Name on Credit Card _____

Type of Card _____ Credit Card # _____ Exp. _____

Arrival Date _____ Departure Date _____ Room Type: ☐ King ☐ Double

Special Requests: _____

As a guest at the City Hotel & Bistro, Greenville, you will find we offer many of the comforts of your very own home! Below are just a few of the amenities participants of your group will enjoy. We hope this information will be beneficial in helping you select our hotel for your upcoming event and/or overnight accommodations.

- Complimentary, freshly prepared Hot Buffet Breakfast *We deliver to room for a \$5.95 charge
- "Certified Angus Beef" served daily cooked over hickory fired wood at the **City Bistro**
- Banquet facilities offering the latest in Technology Equipment • Exercise facility opened 24 hours
- Outdoor pool and pool area to enjoy the warm weather of the southeast
- Data Port 2-line speaker telephones in each guest room
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NEW! TRUE CONNECTIONS DAY SPA offering massages, facials, manicures and pedicures!

AVERY, Cont'd From Page 4

grow. It will grow in the yard of the rich or the poor. The dandelion could care less about the race, religion, culture, creed, or political preference of the yard's owner. It will grow wherever it can take root.

The amazing thing about the dandelion is its ability to persevere – to rise above its surroundings. No matter how high the grass grows or how dry the ground becomes. The dandelion, much to the dismay of many gardeners, will rise above it all!

Some people are like that. They rise above it all. In the midst of discouragement and troubles, they RISE! Distress and criticism? They RISE! Limited resources and a succession of failures? They RISE! Red seas in front, pharaohs in the back, mountains on the side? They RISE! Hungry lions, flaming furnaces, high walls, ungrateful murmurers? They RISE!

They rise above it all because, like the dandelion, they understand that nothing can keep them down when they reach up for God's sunshine. They refuse to be smothered and bound by circumstances. The dandelion not only adds color to the drab places of earth. It eventually scatters seed.

Our ministry through various foreign

mission agencies is similar to the dandelion. It has been able to RISE ABOVE IT ALL. Foreign Missions has often been overlooked and unappreciated. But through it all, the fruit of its labor has provided color in drab places for many who are outcast and undernourished. Your prayers and support through the years have made this possible.

Please continue to be good stewards of this ministry. Rise above the tendency to assume that all is well ... refuse to be smothered by daily routines and "business" that may not always glorify God and edify others. Encourage your church, ministry, association, and community to support foreign missions, particularly the Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Ministry. For more information about this glorious ministry, please feel free to contact me: 704-637-0954 (o); 704-637-1137 (fax); averyrevkin@aol.com (e-mail).

I am looking forward to seeing you soon. "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen" (Philippians 4:23, NKJV).

¹ Article II, Sections 1 and 2 of the Constitution of the GBSC of N. C., Inc.

² Kay Spinkel Grace, *Setting and Advancing the Mission*, Washington, D. C.; :Board Source, 2003, p. 1.

³ Spinkel. P. 1.

SESSION, Cont'd From Page 1

planning an outstanding session for us. Also beginning Monday, May 5, 2003 at 9:00 a.m., and throughout the session teaching and training classes will be offered. The curriculum will include courses for pastors, ministers, laypersons, ushers, missionaries, deacons, trustees, Christian educators and musicians. We will have at least one course through Shaw Divinity School being offered throughout the session, call Dean T.J. Robertson for more information at 919-546-8569. Several outstanding faculty members, professors and GBSC writers will be with us teaching their books: Dr. William C. Turner, *Discipleship for African American Christians A Journey through the Church Covenant*, Dr. R. Logan Carson, *From The Heart Of A Pastor*; Dr. Terry Thomas, *Let Us Pray*; and Reverend Carolyn W. Brown, *How You Know That You Know You Are Saved*. These classes and others will start Monday morning and go through Wednesday. Other faculty will include Dr. D.S. Briggs, Dr. Robert Home, Mrs. Portia Brandon and staff.

On Monday night we will have opening worship service and convention late night evangelism. The night sessions will also have teaching and learning opportunities for those who cannot attend classes in the day. "To Serve The Present Age" we must be learners and teachers of the Gospel mandate.

We will begin Tuesday morning, 8:30-10 a.m. with a session lead by the Congress on "Education Advocacy: To Serve The Present Age". At 10:15 a.m. President Charles T. Bullock will sound the gavel for the 2003 Mid-Year Session. The remainder of the day will feature workshops training sessions and continuing education. The Tuesday afternoon session will feature preaching at its best. Pastors, moderators, ministers, evangelists and church officers are asked to join us for this powerful session. Your life will never be the same. Tuesday night will feature the Annual Mid-Year Sermon, by Dr. John Mendez, Pastor, Emmanuel Baptist Church, Winston-Salem, NC our host last year will preach. Following this service we will have convention late night evangelism.

On Wednesday, May 6, 2003, we will

receive the past president's sermon delivered by the Reverend Dr. John D. Fuller, Sr., immediate past president of the GBSC at 10:00 a.m. It will be followed by the mid-year theme lecture and convention reports. The new president of Shaw University, the Reverend Dr. Clarence G. Newsome will greet our convention. The session will end with the first President's Hour of President Bullock. Plan to meet us in Greenville, NC. This mid-year will be the greatest in our convention history, be apart of it. We are asking each church to send the pastor and at least four (4) messengers. This will allow you to take full advantage of the teaching classes. We are encouraging church officers to attend. We will be distributing very important information about church governance, administration and doctrine.

The sessions will be taped and video recorded. Also our GBSC photographer will be on site to take photographs for your churches and associations or personal souvenir photographs.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Sunday, May 4, 2003

7:00pm Pre-Convention Musical

Monday, May 5, 2003

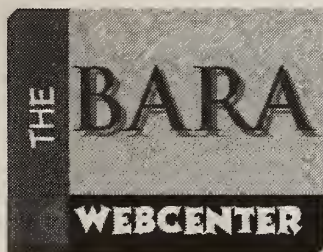
8 am - 1:00 pm Mid-Year Golf Tourn.
9am - 12noon Teaching / Training Classes
1:30 - 4:30pm Worship & Classes Cont.
6:00 - 7:30pm Evening Classes
7:30 - 9:00pm Worship
9:00pm Late Night Evangelism

Tuesday, May 6, 2003

8:30 - 10:00am Education Advocacy
10:15am Official GBSC Opening,
President Charles T. Bullock
10:30 - 12noon GBSC Workshops and
Institutes, Institutional Ministry
Health And Human Services
2:00 - 4:30pm Preaching /Teaching At Its
Best - Ministers Council
6:00 - 7:30pm Evening Classes
7:30 - 8:00pm Political Action Update
8:00 - 9:30pm Worship,
Mid-Year Sermon
9:30pm Late Night Evangelism

Wednesday, May 7, 2003

9:00 - 10:30am Worship - Past
President's Sermon
10:30 - 11:00am GBSC Reports
11:00 - 12 noon Mid-Year Theme
Lecture
12noon President's Hour
Adjournment



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- Contact Management Tool (capture info on people who visit the site and email events, newsletters, resource promotions, etc.)
- Private Chat Tool (allows interaction with congregation or those in need)
- Form Functionality (accept registration for events or prayer request on line)
- Search Engine with artificial intelligence
- Web Editing Tool(allows you to make changes to site)
- Many other features

Call me today to discuss your ministry internet expansion.

GRANT, Cont'd From Page 4

on our Convention's mission statement in preparation for our upcoming meetings. The 2003 schedule for Executive Committee and General Board meetings is listed below. Please put these on your calendar!

• **Thursday, April 3 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Martin Street Baptist Church, Raleigh.**

• **Tuesday, July 8 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., First Cosmopolitan Baptist Church, Raleigh.**

• **Tuesday, September 30 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Winston-Salem (place TBA).**

Youth Conference 2003 Instructions

Submitted By Mrs. Diane Newell,
President Congress of Christian Education
CHAPERONES

In addition to rules that you have
established at your church for dele-



Diane
Newell

gates, we are
adding to them
as it pertains to
the Chaperones
and Youth.

Chaperones
are responsible
for every child,
youth and
teenager that
they bring to
the conference.

If bring a
male or males,

you must have an Adult Male
Chaperone to reside in the dormitory
with your youth or make arrangements
with another adult male that is billeted
in the dormitory.

If you bring a female or females,
you must have an Adult female
Chaperone to reside in the dormitory or
make arrangements with another adult
male that is billeted in the dormitory.

Curfew hours are established at each
Conference. Please adhere to these
hours.

**Youth must be supervised at all
times. KNOW WHERE THEY ARE**

❖ Males *are not* allowed on the
female floors or in their rooms.

❖ Females *are not* allowed on the
male floors or in their rooms.

Chaperones are to use their own
discretion on matters that are not cov-
ered.

Responsibilities for Chaperones
include but are not limited to:

- Knowing at all times where your
Youth are

- Ensuring that curfew hours and
times are met

- Ensuring that young people keep
up with keys and meal passes

- Ensuring that they are properly
dressed. Even though this is a youth
conference, it is still governed by the
Christian society. It is important that
the youth refrain from wearing clothing
that is inappropriate or not in good
taste.

- Ensuring that young people are
where they are supposed to be through-
out the conference

- Ensure that youth are respectful
of all adults and that we as adults recip-
rocate.

- Visiting between the males and
females will only be allowed in the
common areas (i.e. TV Lounge)

- Ensuring that youth are not in
areas that are not part of our confer-
ence, unless permission has been given
by the Dean of Student Affairs.

- Any disputes between young peo-
ple will be handled by the Chaperones
and the youth involved.

Please be mindful of everyone that
is in the dormitory. It is important that
we keep everyone safe and free from
harm in a safe environment.

- It is not the duty of the Director
nor Assistant Director to chaperone and
keep track of your young people.

- The General Baptist State
Convention will not be held liable for
acts caused by unsupervised youth.

2003 Calendar

April 12, 2003

VBS Clinic, Elizabeth City State University
Host: Rev. Ricky Banks, Pastor
St. Stephens Missionary Baptist Church
Elizabeth City, NC

April 26, 2003

VBS Clinic, Charlotte, NC
Host: Rev. Norman E. Kerry, Pastor
Chappell Memorial Baptist Church
110 Bradford Drive Charlotte, NC (704) 394-5615

May 6, 2003

Education Advocacy Report, Mid-Year Session
General Baptist State Convention
Host: Dr. Howard Parker, Pastor
Sycamore Hill Baptist, Greenville, NC

June 16-20, 2003

National Baptist Congress of Christian Education
Detroit, Michigan

June 25-28, 2003

Youth Oratorical Conference
Shaw University, Raleigh, NC (Tentative)
Host: Dr. Paul Anderson, Moderator, Wake Association

July 15-17 2003

130th Annual Session / Trinity Convention
Host: Second Calvary Baptist Church
114 Nelson Avenue, Charlotte, NC 28216

THE BRYAN ADRIAN SUMMER BASKETBALL CAMP

P.O. Box 32215 • Charlotte, NC 28232 • 704-377-NETS

**Registration is now open for the
25th Annual Bryan Adrian Summer Basketball Camp.
Boys and girls ages 5 - 19 are eligible.**

**The Summer Camp is held at
North Carolina Wesleyan College in Rocky Mount, NC.**

The dates are June 29 - July 3.

**Included on the Camp Staff are:
Dahntay Jones (Duke) and Josh Howard (Wake Forest).**

For a free brochure call (704) 377-6387 anytime!

Vacation Bible School Clinic

Saturday, April 26, 2003

9:00 a.m. - 1 p.m.*

*Sponsored by the Congress of Christian Education
Diane Newell, President
held at*

CHAPPELL MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH
110 Bradford Drive • Charlotte, NC 28208 • (704) 394-5615
Rev. Norman E. Kerry, Jr., Host Pastor

Please complete the following information and return to Minister A.R. Muwakil @ Chappell Memorial Baptist Church by Friday, March 28, 2003. Flyer may be mailed to Chappell Memorial at the address above or faxed to (704) 392-1150.

Church Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Pastor _____

No. of Scheduled Participants _____

**Lunch will be provided.*

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Oratorical Contest 2003

1. Applicants are to complete application with all of the required information. Applications not completely filled out will not be accepted.

2. Please ensure that all REQUIRED signatures are on the form.

3. Completed applications: THE DEADLINE DATE IS JUNE 21, 2003. APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED ON SITE!

4. Any applications received after this date will not be accepted. It is not our intention to make this an issue; however, it is not fair to Associations who submitted their paperwork on time.

5. PLEASE DO NOT MAIL APPLICATIONS AND SPEECHES TO THE GBSC HEADQUARTERS BUILDING. MAIL THEM TO THE ADDRESS INDICATED ON THE FORM. It is YOUR responsibility to follow-up with me to verify that I did receive your application and speech by the required deadline!

6. Any problems that you encounter, any questions that you may have, please feel free to make contact with one of the persons listed below. *We can't help you unless we know you need help. We will do our best to assist you in any way that we can!*

Oratorical Director
Assistant Oratorical Director
Alberta H. Moore
Constance G. Finch
(910) 424-8430 (office)
(919) 834-7108 (home)
(910) 424-2104 (fax)
(919) 834-7106 (fax)
email: amoores@lewischapel.org
email: mcnaire97@bellsouth.net
MOALH@AOL.COM

7. IT IS A REQUIREMENT THAT WE HAVE A COPY OF THE CONTESTANT'S SPEECH PRIOR TO THE CONTESTANT SPEAKING.

8. Please help us help you!!!

2003 ORATORICAL TOPICS

Preparatory Division - 6th, 7th, 8th grade as of July 1, 2003

1. Wait God! I Didn't Mean It
2. What If?
3. Persistence Pays
4. Right from Wrong
5. But My Friends Do It!
6. The Courage to say no
7. God Is Good
8. Keep Your Eyes on the Prize
9. Be Careful What You Say
10. Letting My Little Light Shine

Junior Division - 9th, 10th, 11th grade of July 1, 2003

1. Truth Makes a Difference
2. It's What's Inside That Counts
3. The Question Is...
4. The Lord Is My Rock

5. Faith
6. A Good Friend Is...
7. Wait for the Lord
8. No Greater Love
9. Is He Yours?
10. Its a Real Good Thing!

Senior Division - Rising High School Seniors as of July 1, 2003

1. My Help Comes From The Lord
2. The Stoplights of Life
3. Risky Business
4. What color is Love?
5. Building on a Solid Foundation
6. God Holds The Future
7. Lift Up Jesus
8. Whose World Is It Anyway?

9. There Is Hope

10. It's Gonna Be A Brighter Day

11. When Friends and Faith Disagree

At no time will a contestant or judge discuss the contestant's scores. The results of a judge's decision will be kept confidential.

The Judges will have a score sheet and a sheet for additional comments. The purpose of these comments is to help and/or enhance the contestants in future endeavors.

Selection of winners will be based on the judge's score and any penalty points that the contestant may have received.

The Director and Assistant Director

will conduct a drawing prior to the beginning of the contest, with all contestants present, for the speaking order.

Please keep in mind that you were created in the image of God. You are a good and talented person and in God's eyes, everyone is a winner!

God Bless You!

ORATIONS VS SERMONS. The title implies that this is the James F. Wertz Oratorical Contest. Not the James F. Wertz Sermon Contest. Therefore, any speech presented as a Sermon is not acceptable. The penalty is disqualification. Judges will be instructed in this matter. There is a distinct distinction between the two, when delivered. ■

JAMES F. WERTZ ORATORICAL CONTEST

Congress of Christian Education of the General Baptist State Convention of NC, Inc.

Speech (Oratorical) Contest Entry Form

(Contestants who have been declared winners in their ASSOCIATIONS should complete this form)

Name of Contestant: _____ ☐ M ☐ F

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone () _____

Name of Church _____

Pastor's Name _____

Association Representing _____

Moderator's Name _____

List Prior Contest In Which You Have Participated In:

Local Church _____ Association _____

Other _____ Topic _____

Division _____ Your Grade As Of July 1, 2003 _____

Signature of Sunday School Superintendent

Signature of District President

Please mail application and a COPY OF SPEECH to:

Alberta H. Moore, 5414A Raeford Rd., Fayetteville, NC 28304, or fax to (910) 424-2194. Application deadline date is June 21, 2003.

*Instructions for applications and Oratorical Topics listed in attached article.

Submitted By Portia Brandon, M.Div.

Christian Education Coordinator

But what does God say in His word that a church is?

In 1st Timothy 3:15, God calls the church body "the house of God." It is the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit. This is made clear in Ephesians 2:19-22. It is also the church of the living God, mean-



Portia
Brandon

ing that it belongs to God. No man nor men or group of men or women or any boards, committees, denominations, covenants, rules, by-laws have any authority at all to dictate the control of

God's church without God's word.

In spite of that fact, many are doing just that. The church is also called the pillar and the ground of the truth. The foundation of the church is the scriptures, the truth. Without the truth, i.e. the scriptures, then the church does not exist. If the place that you call church does not have at its very foundation the scriptures, it is not a church no matter what anyone says to the contrary. The church is to uphold the truth in doctrine and living. This is but a short explanation of what the church is and probably different from what many are calling a church. More than likely, it is probably because they never have taken the time to see from God's word what a church is and, frankly speaking, others do not care what God says a church is.

Well, what do I look for in a local church?

1) **Pray.** The very first thing that you should do in your church search. If you are not praying, then you are not getting God's direction on this issue. If you are

not getting God's direction on this issue of looking for a local church fellowship, you are looking incorrectly. Now prayer is not a substitute for action. Where God has spoken on the issue of what a church is and the place that you attend is not meeting God's standards, then you need to leave. The issue then becomes, where do you go next? That is the time to pray. If it comes to the place that you cannot stay where you are, then you need to do some serious praying about this.

2) **Study the scriptures that teach the structure, life and organization of the local church.** Most people have no biblical idea at all about what a church is because they never bothered to find out. You want to find a church that operates biblically.

3) **If there is a problem(s) that is causing you to make this potential move, then see if the problem can be solved.** Don't just sit there and fume about an issue that is on your heart — do something about it! Much of what you think may be a problem may be that which comes from your own mind! See if a problem can be resolved before you consider leaving any church. A lack of biblical direction and leadership in a church will cause you nothing but heartache and grief. If the Pastor or Pastors refuse to seek the mind and will of God and the scriptures about a matter, then it's time to leave.

4) **Are you leaving because of unresolved hurts caused by others?** Everyone who leaves a church bitter usually brings that bitterness with them to the next church.

5) **Why are you looking for a local church?** Motives play a very important part in any church search. This leads to point 6.

6) **What are you looking for in a local church?** Probably the most important

(and ignored) question on this entire list. Most people:

- Never ask that simple question.
- Already think they know based on other churches they attended, but not according to God's word.
- Be for real about these next series of questions: Are you looking for a church that will cater to your physical needs? Your emotional needs? Your carnal needs?

Are you looking for a church that is big, small, whatever? What are you looking for in a local church? Are you looking for a church body which you can grow spiritually and participate according to what the scriptures say? Are you looking to grow spiritually in the church, is that your primary motive? Do you even know how?

2nd Timothy 3:16-17. If the word of God makes you grow spiritually, then the primary consideration in choosing to fellowship in a local church body is the systematic.

It is imperative that we look for churches that are involved in the preaching and teaching of God's word. If this is not at the top of your list, then you are looking incorrectly for a church, you are not interested in growth.

7) **Are you a servant or a spectator?** Do you plan to work in a church or watch in a church? To participate or to vegetate? Most people who attend churches today act as if they are paying spectators. Churches don't need that. Most people in the church do absolutely nothing to help further the cause of Christ. It's 20% of the people doing 100% of the work. The church needs faithful people to get the job done.

Consider your role in this matter when looking for a local church.

8) **Look for strong, Godly, loving leaders and congregations.** There are no perfect churches because there are no perfect people.

Here are some last things to consider in a church search:

a) **The size of the congregation.** Professing believers have a built-in rejection of a smaller congregation, which shows nothing but a carnal, wicked spirit. To imply that God is not, nor cannot, be working through and in a smaller congregation is nothing but pride, stupidity and sin. Many people join larger congregations, not because they plan to do any work in the church, but to identify with the preacher or the church's size and ministry, or to boast that you attend Rev., Dr., brother, Pastor so and so's church.

b) **Music.** Many professing believers place more emphasis on their music, their choirs, their soloist than on the word of God. There is no model for that in all of

the Bible. This is contrary to what the scriptures teach is the true emphasis of the church — the teaching and preaching of the word of God. The church is not a place of entertainment, but of learning and service! It is sinful that many a good church will be judged on their music, choirs and soloist, or lack of them, rather than on the teaching of the word of God.

c) **Facilities.** People can be so foolish as to rate a church on the size and trappings of a facility, as if that were the real church. A building is a building, the church is the believing people. If you allow yourself to be hindered by the facility, that speaks more of you, than of the people that you never even bothered to meet.

d) **Denominations and traditions.** Again, for many a tremendous stumbling block (Mark 7:1-13).

e) **Finally,** the last question that needs to be asked in a church search is this: What do I plan to do after God brings me into a local church body? The answer? Support it with your all!

There are many people who haven't taken the time to study the scriptures on this most important subject of looking for a local church fellowship. It is extremely important that you read all these verses carefully. The bible is clear of what characteristics are seen in the local church that is God's church.

- The primary emphasis of any true church is the person of Jesus Christ. If the central focus is the Pastor, music, size of the congregation, money, etc., it is not, I repeat, not a New Testament church. The central focus will always, and forever be, Jesus Christ (Colossians 1:9-19, 2:6-10, 18-19, Ephesians 1:15-22).

- It is important that the church have sound, biblical leadership (1st Timothy 3:1-13, Titus 1:5-9).

- The church has gifted leaders whose primary function is to edify (build up spiritually) the church body (Ephesians 4:11-13). The result of being built up spiritually will be protection against being led into false teaching. (Ephesians 4:14).

- The church will be continually ministering to each other. (Ephesians 4:15-16).

- Sound teaching produces proper relationships with other people, both in the church body and out. (Ephesians 4:17-31).

- Not only is it essential that the church has sound biblical leadership, but must have sound biblical fellowship as well. The focus of participating in a fellowship is not to take up space, not to have your name on some church roll, but to grow spiritually and become a functioning member of that church body. (Titus 2:1-8, Ephesians 4:15-16, Hebrews 10:24-25, Acts 2:41-47, 4:32-35)

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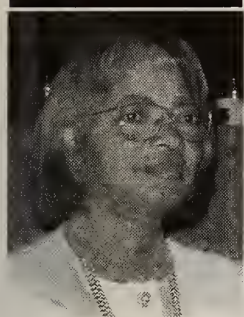
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President: Dr. James P. Wooten - Professor, Toastmaster, Keynote Speaker

Proclamation

By Executive Secretary-Treasurer Brodie
And as they went to tell his disciples,
behold Jesus met them, saying All Hail.



Dr. Priscilla
Brodie

And they came
and held him
by the feet, and
worshipped
Him.
Matthew 28:9

The month
April has
arrived, and in
this month we
celebrate Easter the
Resurrection
(victory over all

of death's arenas) of Jesus Christ, Our Savior and Lord. Let us proclaim to all this unique Resurrection and its relationship to those who obey the Christ Jesus and those who do not. What a victorious event on which to reflect! How it reminds us of God's love for a sinful world, but yet His creatures, and how He desires His human creatures chose His Way of living and not their own. Nothing could destroy the love of God shown in Christ, not even death. Yes, with a resounding victory, Christ's Kingdom shall reign fully over all on the earth when God is ready.

He Rose Triumphantly
Our bless-ed Lord was slain, (was slain,)

The Christ who came to
reign, (to reign,) And in a grave He lay, To
wait the com-ing day.

They sor-rowed when He died, (he died,)
Nor sought their tears to
hide; (to hide;) But soon their bit-ter pain
Was turned to joy a-gain.

The stone was rolled a-way, (a-way,) For
Christ was raised that day; (that day;) And
now He lives a-bove To man-I-fest His love.

Chorus
He rose tri-um-phant-ly, In pow'r and maj-
es-ty,
The Sav-ior rose no more to die; O let us
now pro-claim
The glo-ry of His name, And tell to all, He
lives to-day.

Oswald J. Smith
B. D. Ackley

HAVE A BLESSED EASTER!

REMINDERS

1. The State-Wide Leaders' Workshop will convene for all depart-
ments at the Raleigh Civic Center on
Saturday, April 5, 2003. The session
begins at 9:00 a.m. However, registration
begins at 8:00 a.m. for those who have
not pre-registered. Registration is \$6.00
and pre-registration is \$5.00. Please
secure a pre-registration form from the
office and return it with the funds by
March 15, 2003. You may duplicate

forms.

2. The Ministers' Wives/Widows' Retreat is scheduled for Friday – Sunday,
May 23rd – 25th, 2003. All Ministers' Wives/Widows are invited. Please see the
brochure on this page for the information.

3. The Leadership Training Conference will convene the week of



Dr. Julius
McDonald

(Week 1); June 15-20, 2003 (Week 2);
June 22-27, 2003 (Week 3). Campers are
received on a first-come basis. Please
begin contacting the office for forms the
last week of March.

5. Self-Denial Envelopes can be
secured from the office. Funds should be
sent to the office prior to this year's
Annual Session.

June 2-6, 2003
at the Baptist
Assembly,
Laurel Hill.
Please begin
contacting the
office for forms
the last week in
March and
return by May
12, 2003.

4. The Youth Bible Camp
will be held
June 8-13, 2003

6. Housing Reservation Forms for
the 119th Annual Session are now avail-
able from the office. Please complete the
form and send it directly to the host hotel,
Adam's Mark, Winston-Salem. The
Annual Session Assembly will meet July
27th – 31st, 2003 at the Benton Convention
Center, Winston-Salem.

7. Scholarships. The Woman's
Convention gives scholarships to qualified
youth and young adults. Call (919) 833-
4823 or fax (919) 833-7599 the office for
more information. Applications are due
no later than May 31st, 2003.

8. Budget: The 2002-2003 Budget is
in the amount of \$806,055.00; Foreign
Missions \$80,200.00, State Missions
\$565,855.00, Shaw University
\$49,500.00, Shaw Divinity School
\$33,500.00, Central Children Home
\$36,500.00 and Baptist Assembly
\$40,500.00. Checks and money orders
should be made payable to the
Woman's Baptist State Convention and
sent to Woman's Baptist State
Convention, P. O. Box 1818, Raleigh,
NC 27602.

PLEASE BE REMINDED THAT
THE WOMAN'S CONVENTION
FUNDS ARE NOT A PART OF THE
UNIFIED PLAN.

Help Support the Food Bank of North Carolina

The 2nd Annual Outreach Food Project, which is being sponsored by the Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention of North Carolina in conjunction with the Food Bank of North Carolina, will be held on Saturday, April 5, 2003 at the Raleigh Civic and Convention Center, in Raleigh, North Carolina.

This year's goal is to collect more than 20,000 pounds of food for the Food Bank of North Carolina. Last year, the Woman's Convention collect-
ed more than 10,500 pounds of food for the Food Bank of North Carolina.

The Food Drive will be held during the Leadership Workshop of the Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention of North Carolina (from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.). We are soliciting your help and your prayers to make this Food Drive a success in feeding the needy citizens of North Carolina.

Volunteers will arrive at 8:30 a.m. to assist in collecting food items from cars, vans and buses as they arrive at the Raleigh Civic Center. If you cannot attend the Leadership Workshop on Saturday, April 5, 2003, please drop off your non-perishable food items in front of the Civic Center.

Prior to Saturday, April 5, 2003, if you want your food items picked up from your house or church, please leave a message for Vanessa Gregory, Director of the Young Adult Department or Erica Barnhill, President of the Young Adult Department of the WBH&FMC of NC at the Convention's Headquarters (919) 833-4823.

Be Blessed! Jesus Fed Thousands (Matthew 15:32-39).

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Wednesday Evening Intercessory Prayer - 6:30 pm
Wednesday Evening Bible Study - 7:00 pm
Thursday Evening Woman's Fellowship - 7:00 pm

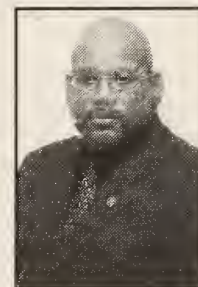
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Dr. A.T. Griffey, III
Senior Pastor

To Serve The Present Age

By Dr. Jasper P. Reed
GBSC Historian

Prior to October 1871 those Churches, which founded the Middle District



Dr. Jasper
Reed

Missionary Baptist Association were members of the Kenansville Eastern Association. This group of fourteen (14) churches, of which twelve (12) are still active in the

Middle District Association, evidenced some anomalies during the growth of the Middle District Association. The departure of chartered churches, as well as some churches which joined later, speak to these anomalies.

Early in the life of the Association its Founders identified and laid out some measurable goals for its member churches. These included a maintenance fellowship, fostering the missionary work, educating (preparing) the saints to help them better understand true doctrines, and to strengthen their faith using the gospel ministry. Lastly, they wanted to teach members the Ordinances of the Baptist Church and their applications. At the heart of their purposes were education, christian and academic.

The Middle District Missionary Baptist Association has made many contributions to the General Baptist State Convention, the Burgaw Community, and to other causes for and in the name of the work of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. One of the greatest, if not its greatest achievements was the founding of a school to, among other things, train ministers. It taught basic academics as well as spiritual lessons. What started out as a service for ministers evolved under the

administration of Professor C. F. Pope, formerly a Shaw University Faculty Member, to become ultimately the Burgaw Colored High School. It was an accredited school in the State of North Carolina in 1924 at which time it opened its doors to students from all over the state. The School, as such, no longer exists as a physical entity.

That great tradition of preparing the saints for the ministry is still being carried on today. It has been modified and is called the Burgaw Training Institute, which is a series of workshops, beginning in the month of February, and is designed to inform each of its members. This change was requested by Moderator Andre Carr and the executive board in the year 2000. The requested change was to offer the workshops in February concurrently with the Missionary workshop series. The Training Institute was held in the evening while the Missionary workshops were held during the day. We changed the curriculum of the Training Institute so that all members, of the member churches, could attend and develop using the workshop information.

In response to our members we have provided training and information in the areas of Church Conflict, Church Administration, the Ministry of Affiliation, Church Record keeping, Discipleship, Stewardship, Women in the Ministry, Evangelism, Missions and Missionaries, Interim Pastors, New Pastors and their congregational relationships, and Missionary Baptist Churches; their procedures, fellowships, and structure. We note that the sustained attendance at these sessions is related to the manner in which we respond to their needs. If we speak to the people as the Lord commanded Joshua to do, not only will they attend, but they will carry the stones (the burden of learning) with them so that the next generation will be prepared to do the ministries during their days. We have been blessed to have such noted presenters as Dr. Smith, Dr. Rouse, Dr. Carr, Rev. Henry, Rev. Wells, Dr. Forbes, Dr. Johnson, Rev. Trotter, Dr. van Stephens, Dr. Miller, Dr. S. Bullock, Dr. Edwards, Dr. Fuller and others of the Middle District Staff.

MINISTER'S COUNCIL

News from the Minister's Council

By Dr. Donaldson Jones, President

As a passing pedestrian participating in the panoramic parade of human history,



Dr. Donaldson
Jones

it profoundly pleases my heart to know that there are some things, like the Lord's love letter we call the scriptures, that are of such signature significance that they shall stand forever.

Leadership Summit 2003, March 6th and 7th, held at Mt. Peace Baptist Church in Raleigh, NC, where Rev. J. Vincent Terry serves as pastor, may well be eligible in a very realistic spiritual sense, to be enrolled in this classic category of significance.

Almost all attendees will attest that every worship service or study session was an epiphanic event. Every event emphatically evidenced the endearing embrace of the Eternal. In the vernacular of our 2003 distinguished lecturer, Dr. James Allen, you might say we were "hemmed in by God."

Pastor Terry and the terrific people of Mt. Peace always accommodated us in the spirit of Christ with a radiant smile.

Their works confirmed their words; we knew we were welcome.

The preachers and the teachers certainly acted on that knowledge. One would be hard-pressed to differentiate between the teacher and the preachers for the preachers taught and the teachers preached; they were all on fire for God. These men and women perambulated through textual or topical territory like they heard that Jesus just rose this morning, ascended to Heaven this evening and is coming back for the Rapture tomorrow.

We all had to take our hats off and give special salute to two of our senior members of the Minister's Council, Dr. Andrew Carr, Moderator of Middle District Association, and Dr. Clyde Walton, the Holy Ghost hurricane from Henderson.

Our Tuesday evening session was talk time. We had a general discussion on how to close the great generational divide between the younger and senior ministers. The Rev. Grainger S. Davis, pastor of First Baptist Church of Hamlet, NC, graciously steered the discussion with a cut-through-the-chase, sharp, double-sided sensitivity that was kind to all and offend none. This was a richly revealing and remarkably refreshing discussion. You may order it by the title "Presidential Reflections and General Discussion" for only \$6.00 from Dr. Gene Hadley. You may purchase the whole conference, a set

of (11) tapes for \$66.00 by writing: Dr. Gene Hadley, PO Box 9384, Chapel Hill, NC, 27515, or phoning (919) 932-1010.

While I was penning these very words, I was pleasantly interrupted by a phone call from the Rev. Larry Allen, pastor of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church of Canton, NC, and Corresponding Secretary of the Minister's Council. He called to tell me how much he was still enjoying the summit tapes. I asked if he thought the tapes were worth the \$66.00 cost, to which he replied, "it was well worth it."

I am confident that if you order these tapes and hear what we heard you will agree that Leadership Summit 2003 was and is a memorable moment of massive

monumental meaning in the life of GBSC.

Dear ones, please know that every prayer, person, presence and purse that went into this Minister's Council summit session is sincerely appreciated. We humbly seek your continued supplications and support.

If you are a pastor or preacher interested in working with the Minister's Council I would be delighted to hear from you. Write:

Dr. Donaldson Jones, Minister's Council President
PO Box 3471
Burlington NC 27215
(336) 229-4622
Blessings upon you.

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Peace Be Unto You: Don't Strike the Rock

By Dr. A. T. Griffey, III, Statistician



Dr. A.T.
Griffey, III

with this wonderfully close relationship, Moses still struggled at times with trust-

Moses was chosen by God to lead the people of Israel out of Egypt. Through Moses, God demonstrated His awesome power and magnificent holiness. At the time, there was no one closer to God than Moses.

However, even

ing God.

After being led out of Egypt, the people often brought their complaints to Moses. On one occasion, the people complained about their lack of drinking water, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to this terrible place?" (Numbers 20:5). When Moses entered the presence of God with this concern, he was given clear direction for solving the problem: "Gather the assembly together. Speak to that rock before their eyes and it will pour out its water" (Numbers 20:8).

Moses gathered the people as he was told. But rather than simply speaking to the rock, Moses tried to accomplish God's work with a method of his own choosing.

(Numbers 20:10-11) "Listen, you rebels, must we bring you water out of this rock?" Then Moses raised his arm and struck the rock twice with his staff. Water gushed out, and the community and their livestock drank."

Moses had seen God's power and knew how much He hated disobedience; yet at this moment, Moses did not follow God's command. Moses may have become prideful while leading the Israelites through the desert; "Must WE (Aaron and I) bring you water out of this rock?" Or, he may have thought God needed help from the same staff used to turn the Nile River into blood and part the Red Sea. Either way, his disobedience stemmed from a lack of trust in God.

God still loved Moses and will fellowship with him for all eternity, but his failure to obey was severely punished;

"Because you did not trust in Me enough to honor Me as holy in the sight of the Israelites, you will not bring this community into the land I give them" (Numbers 20:12). God's perfect plan for Moses clearly included a trip into the Promised land; but, even after 40 years of faithful leadership, Moses's lack of trust caused him to miss out on God's very best.

God knows our needs and has a detailed plan which is unfolding according to His perfect timing. Let's listen intently for His direction and then fully obey. Let's take the steps to ensure all we do in our ministry - all we do in our family and in every area of our life - is done to bring Him glory and honor. Let's trust Him with ALL our heart and always remember: don't strike the rock!

Have a Great Day!

LAYMEN'S LEAGUE NEWS

Submitted by

Deacon John Gladden

The Mini Skills Conference is a youth talent exhibition open to all elementary through High School students. The purpose is to encourage our youth to

develop and demonstrate their talents and abilities in various fields of academic interest.

Contestants may participate in one or both major categories.

I. **Performing Arts:** which include dramatics, music, oratory, etc.

II. **Science & Arts Displays:** which include Architecture, Computer Science, Drawing, Natural Science, Painting, Sculpture, Industrial Arts, etc.

Judging Criteria:

All judging will be done in three grade categories: elementary, middle, and high school.

Entries may be individuals or groups. Groups will be categorized by the grade of the oldest participant. All entries must display positive values.

Performing Arts entries will be judged on creativity, spirituality, and quality of performance. Displays will be judged on appearance, creativity, knowledge and understanding.

AWARDS & PRIZES

Awards will be given in the Performing Arts Category for:

- ❖ Best Musical content
- ❖ Best Dramatic content
- ❖ Best Oratorical content
- ❖ Best Overall performance

Awards will be given in the Science, & Arts Display Category for:

- ❖ Best Scientific content
- ❖ Best Artistic content
- ❖ Best Technological content
- ❖ Best Overall Display

Best Overall Performance and Best Overall Display will receive monetary awards. Other awards will be trophies, ribbons and certificates.

For more information contact Michael Kendall:
919-872-6572
mkendall@intrex.net

Notice to participants and coordinators:

- Plan to arrive at Baptist Assembly at 9:00 am May 17 for registration and set-up.
- Fee of \$10 for each entry covers the cost of one meal and registration for one category.

Registration in a second category requires additional registration fee.

- Additional persons attending as participants in a group entry or as spectators require \$6 to cover the cost of lunch.

- If a piano, electrical hook-up, or other

special needs are required please specify on the special needs line of the application form.

- Program will begin at 10:00 and will conclude after the Awards Luncheon.
- Each church should specify an adult coordinator that we can contact if necessary.

sary.

- Each church should try to absorb the cost of their youth participants.
- Registration forms and fees need to be mailed no later than Friday May 9 to:

NC Laymen's League
Baptist Headquarters
603 S. Wilmington St.
Raleigh NC 27601
919-821-7466
gbsc@gbsc.org

Mini Skills Conference Registration Form

Name _____ Age _____ Grade _____

Category ☐ Performing Arts type of performance _____

☐ Science & Arts Display type of display _____

☐ Individual entry ☐ Group entry (list other members) _____

Special Needs _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Church _____ Pastor _____

Church location _____ City _____

Mini Skills coordinator _____ Phone _____

Parental permission:

I _____ give my son/daughter/guardian _____ permission to participate in the Mini Skills Conference sponsored by the GBSC Laymen's League to be held on May 17, 2003 at J.J. Johnson Baptist Assembly, Laurel Hill NC.

Signature _____ Date _____

Easter

By Delores Griffey

What Is Easter?

Easter is the celebration of Jesus Christ's return to life after his crucifixion.



Dolores Griffey

It is usually celebrated on the first Sunday after the full moon following the first day of Spring. This can be any Sunday between March 22 and April 25. It is the most sacred of all the Christian holidays or celebrations.

His return from death is called the Resurrection. According to the scriptures, Jesus's tomb was empty two days after his death. His followers saw him and talked to him after this. Christians therefore believe that they too can receive new life after death. Easter is the celebration of this belief.

How Was Easter Celebrated In Ancient Days?

A long time ago, people used to celebrate when Spring arrived. People used to believe that changes in seasons were guided by spirits or gods. The blooming of plants and flowers and animals coming out of their hibernation and the return of birds brought life back to the land. This new life in spring symbolizes the new life Christians gain because of Jesus's death on the cross and his resurrection or back to life again.

What Is Lent?

Lent is the forty days special season prior to Easter Sunday. Sundays are not counted because it is the Lord's Day and should be celebrated and therefore no fasting. Lent is a period of fasting or doing without certain foods, praying and repentance. This is to serve as a reminder of the forty days Jesus fasted in the wilderness. Some countries have celebrations like the Mardi Gras, which means "Fat Tuesday" in French, the day before Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. It is also called "Carnival" sometimes. In the United States, New Orleans is the place where Mardi Gras is celebrated on a big scale.

What Is The Holy Week?

The Holy Week is the last week of Lent. It begins with the observance of Palm Sunday. The name, Palm Sunday originated from Jesus's entry in Jerusalem. The crowd laid carpets of palms on the street for him. The Last Supper is commemorated on Holy Thursday of special week and Friday is the anniversary of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ on the cross. The Lenten season

and Holy week end with Easter Sunday (resurrection of Jesus Christ).

How Did Easter Get Its Name?

The English name "Easter" is much newer. Before Christianity in early England, the people celebrated the vernal equinox with a feast honoring Eastre, the goddess of spring. When the early English Christians wanted others to accept Christianity, they decided to use the name Easter for this holiday so that it would match the name of the old spring celebration. This made it more comfortable for other people to accept Christianity. Some believed that the word Easter came from an early German word "eostarun", meaning dawn and white. Newly baptized Christians wore white clothes as a sign of their new life on Easter.

Easter Egg

As Christianity spread, more familiar traditions, symbols and celebrations of spring were associated with Easter - Christ coming back to life after death. One of the oldest spring symbols in the world is the egg. The oval shape of the egg was the same shape for a raindrop and a seed. These two were important life-giving elements. The egg itself promises new life as in spring, birds, and many other animals are hatched from eggs.

Bonfires & Candles

The lighting of bonfires is still a part of Easter celebrations in some countries. Today, bonfires represent the light coming to the world through Christ. The candle is also used as a symbol of the light of Christ.

Easter Lily & Other Flowers

In ancient Rome, people thought a goddess Flora made flowers bloom. They celebrated the Festival of Floralia by having big parades and carried garlands of blossoms through the streets to honor her every Spring. The narcissus is also a favorite Easter flower in many parts of the world because of its bright and fragrant blossoms. The Easter lily is a new but popular Easter flower. The Easter lily was brought into the United States in 1882 from Bermuda. They serve as a reminder of the purity of Christ.

Cross

The cross was also a well-known symbol before the time of Christ. It was used as a special mark on clothes and buildings. However, when Jesus was crucified, the cross became a symbol of suffering. Then with the resurrection of Christ, the Christians saw it as a symbol of Jesus's victory over death. In A. D. 325, Constantine at the Council of Nicaea issued a decree that the Cross is the official symbol of Christianity.

Palm

It was a Roman custom to welcome royalty by waving palm branches. When Jesus arrived in Jerusalem on the first

Palm Sunday, people welcomed him with palm branches carpeting the streets and waving them. Today, on Palm Sunday, Christians would carry palm branches in parades, make them into crosses and garlands to decorate the Church.

Easter Bunny

In Egypt, people used to believe that the rabbit was responsible for the new life in spring. Later, early Christians saw it as a symbol for the resurrection of Christ.

In England, the goddess of spring, Eastre had an earthly symbol which was the rabbit. She was worshipped by the Anglo-Saxons through her earthly symbol.

The Easter bunny also has to do with its pre-Christian origin. The hare were very fertile animals and gave birth to many offspring in spring. Therefore, the bunny served as a symbol of new life during the Spring season.

Lamb & Other Food (Pretzels, Hot Cross Buns)

The lamb was often sacrificed as offerings to God by the Hebrews long before the first Passover. When Jesus died, he gave himself as an offering to God for the sins of the world. Early Christians then saw the lamb as a symbol of Jesus and used it for Easter celebration. Many people serve lamb as part of the Easter feast.

Other food served on Easter are Pretzels, a Lenten food. The twisted shape symbolizes arms crossed in prayer.

In Great Britain people have always enjoyed the traditional Good Friday breakfast of hot cross buns. They are also served throughout Easter. Each bun has an icing cross on top to remind people of Christ. Street vendors used to sing a song when they went around selling their hot cross buns. This song is now a favorite nursery rhyme for children.

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CHURCH REPRESENTATION: \$500.00

BBSC MID-YEAR ANNUAL SESSION AMOUNT \$ _____

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800-639-GBSC (4272) • 919/821-7466

HEADQUARTERS HOTEL: CITY HOTEL & BISTRO

203 W. Greenville Blvd. • Greenville, NC 27858 • 877-271-2616 • \$49.00 + TAX

DEADLINE: APRIL 4, 2003

At-Risk Youth Conference Huge Success!

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Michael R. Smith, Sr., Chairman



Rev. Michael Smith, Sr.

in Stanley, NC, where the Pastor is Theodore Armstrong, Jr.

A. R. M. Y. stands for Anointed, Radical, Motivated, Youth for Christ. This conference was planned and implemented under the leadership of Reverend Wavey Williams, who also serves with the ISM as At-Risk Youth Coordinator. The conference consisted of worship, training, education and factual presentations that informed and challenged youth. This conference dealt with issues many youth conferences skip over. Reverend Williams believes the challenges of our youth are facing today require us to put all of God's truth on the table for our young persons. This conference presented realistic workshops and opportunities for dialogue regarding issues such as sex, crime, edu-

cation, decision-making, and Christian discipleship. The youth were challenged and confronted with the facts. Youth attended from churches throughout the Gaston and Mecklenburg counties, as well as South Carolina. During the Friday night worship service youth responded with decisions for Christ and requesting prayer to deal with personal issues going on in their lives. This conference was unique in that it did not cater to what attracts youth, but was designed to realistically ensure our young people know the Bible, the consequences of bad decisions, the importance of relationships, sexual responsibility, the need for parental guidance, and testimonies from young persons who made mistakes, but now have learned from them. I want to congratulate Reverend Williams and his wife, Valerie for the hard work and dedication that went into coordinating the outstanding resource persons who shared in the conference. Special thanks to Pastor Theodore Armstrong, Jr. who attended each day of the conference for his leadership, support and Christian hospitality. I pray this type of at-risk youth conference will be a model for the GBSC as we move forward in reaching out to at-risk youth across this state. Reverend Williams is a great resource person in this area and can be reached at (704) 868-2144 / army-ofchrist@excite.com.

CROSS OF CHRIST CHURCH UPDATE

The Cross of Christ Church plant at

the Federal Correctional Complex in Butner continues to experience the blessings of the Lord. Some local churches have come and had fellowship services, which have been an encouraging affirmation and support to the Christian men through the complex. One congregation donated large print Bibles for persons with vision problems. Another congregation has begun an on-going men's fellowship every 2nd Sunday evening to establish godly relational support and mentorship. I thank the Lord for the supportive responses we are getting. Remember the Cross of Christ Church mission is to reach, reconcile and restore lives impacted by crime and incarceration. We have implemented the Cross of Christ School of Discipleship

which is training men in the complex to know their spiritual gifts, promote biblical discipleship, train in using the Bible, develop counseling skills, outreach training and being committed followers of Jesus Christ. The Lord is bringing revival within the prisons. I continually ask for your prayers as we seek to pastorally guide this new church plant so that many other lives will be brought to the Kingdom of God. It is my vision to see this church plant model is implemented in other state prison facilities. If you seek to be supportive in any way, please contact me at (919) 575-3900 ext. 6203 or email me at mrsmithgbsc@aol.com or mrsmith@bop.gov.

IMPORTANT ISM ANNOUNCEMENTS

*3RD ANNUAL CRIME & INCARCERATION CONFERENCE

August 1 - 2, 2003

Historic Shaw University Divinity School - Raleigh, NC
Church Registration \$100.00 / Individual Registration \$25.00

*CALL FOR CRIME & INCARCERATION SUNDAY

Theme: "A Day Of Awareness, Education And Outreach"

Calling all Pastors to have a special service at least once a year at your place of worship.

Members of the ISM Committee are available as speakers / resource persons and assist you with getting started in this great field of ministry.

CROSS OF CHRIST CHURCH MINISTRIES

A ministry dedicated to strengthening the church by promoting biblical discipleship according to the Great Commission -
Matthew 28:18-20

Contact Person - Michael R. Smith, Sr., M. Div.

O - (919) 575-3900 x 6203 / mrsmith@bop.gov H - disciplescross@aol.com

Edwards Grove Missionary Baptist Church of Liberty, NC Celebrates 85-Year History

President Dr. Charles T. Bullock and Executive Secretary Treasurer Dr. Archie D. Logan, Jr. of the General Baptist State Convention were guest keynote preachers at the February 23, 2003 climaxing service during the glorious eighty-fifth year history celebration of the Edwards Grove Missionary Baptist Church of Liberty, which is pastored by Rev. Dr. M. Philip McCleave. President Bullock was the preacher for the 11:00 a.m. service, at which time he challenged the congregation, visiting churches, pastors, ministers, and special guests in attendance to "Return to Bethel and Build an Altar There". His oration was one of sounding an alarm to arouse rededication, re-commitment, rejuvenation, and vigilance in the church and Christian community resulting in unification of our efforts in kingdom building.

After a delicious fellowship lunch was served, Executive Secretary Treasurer Dr. Archie D. Logan, Jr. was the featured speaker for the 2:30 p.m. afternoon service. Dr. Logan was equally as provocative as President Bullock as he centered his challenging message to the true Christ

established church around the chosen theme for this mammoth event: "Eighty-Five More Years Of Reaching the Lost At Any Cost". Both of these lifted preachers used this occasion in their dynamic messages to thank and encourage pastors and other church congregations in attendance to continue their spiritual and financial support for the objectives and missions of the General Baptist State Convention. Rev. Dennis Brown, G.B.S.C. field worker, also took a very active part in the Edwards Grove Baptist Church Anniversary Celebration. Special music and inspiration singing was provided by the First Missionary Baptist Church Gospel Choir of Siler City and its Pastor, the Rev. Berry R. Gray who also is Moderator of the Deep River Association's quarterly union. Edwards Grove Baptist is an active member of this association, which extends its bounds across seven counties.

Pastor McCleave is one of its past Moderators and is a past member of the G.B.S.C. General Board and Political Action Committee. Additionally, Pastor McCleave holds the distinction of what is

believed to be the only living active pastor who has served three pastorship tenures at two different churches in this state or perhaps the nation. His first tenure at Edwards Grove Baptist Church lasted for a period of 24 years. Collectively, he has served this church and city as a religious and civic leader for over 35 years, having pastored First Baptist Church, Siler City for 16 years. Retiring after 34 years of full-time teaching at A&T State University, this pastor has not yet called it quits. At this 85th Church Anniversary celebration, he was honored with citations and proclamations from Governor Michael Easley, U. S. Senator John Edwards, the Town of Liberty by Mayor Stanley; Certification of Appreciation and keys to the Town of Siler City by Mayor Charles Turney. The Edwards Grove Church was founded by and named after Rev. Richard Edwards of Goldston, NC. A few of the other ministers who have pastored this great church include persons such as Rev. Dr. Joseph A. Bryant, Rev. Michael A. Long, the late Reverends A. T. Alston, Dr. O. P. Foster, Dr. A. F. McCleave, C. F. Cobbs, and Rev. Edgar

Shepard, just to name a few.

Other events of this grand occasion were the remarks on the history of the church and the participation of five generations of members recalling the entire 85-year history of this great church. Greetings were extended by several pastors in the association - including Rev. Earl Jeffries of Rocky River Baptist Church, Rev. Michael A. Long, immediate past pastor Rev. Harold Garner of the Oak Grove Baptist Church of Liberty, which will be celebrating 135 year of church history on Sunday, March 24, 2003.

A plaque was presented to Mrs. Marjorie Gales, Chairperson for the planning committee, in appreciation for her dedication and leadership. Current pastor Dr. M. Philip McCleave declares that Edwards Grove has strong leaders and leadership for the present, far-sighted vision for the future, and ample security and stability for future generations, knowing that nothing can pluck the church off its solid rock foundation nor out of the hands of Christ who planted it.

Sickle Cell Disease: Bridges Pointe Foundation and the Whole Story

Submitted by Dr. Anita Holmes.

Below is an article by Elaine Whitworth
Director of Education Services at
Duke University Comprehensive Sickle Cell Center
In the United States approximately



**Dr. Anita
Holmes**

50,000 African-Americans have sickle cell anemia. It is less common in people of Hispanic, Native American, East Indian, Greek, Italian and eastern Asian ancestry.

Although sickle cell anemia is one of the most

common genetic disorders, the community is often unaware of the whole story. Little is known by the public about the disease, its effects or the associated risks. Despite nearly thirty years of community outreach efforts in the state of North Carolina by a variety of medical and social agencies, that fact remains the same.

Incidence rates of sickle cell disease in North Carolina are 25% higher than the national average for sickle cell disease among African-Americans. Sickle cell disease affects 1 in 400 African-Americans within North Carolina. Each year in North Carolina, more than 100 affected infants are identified through newborn screening. Within the Triangle area alone, sickle cell disease is quite prominent, affecting more than 1,300 people.

Sickle cell disease is the general name for a group of hereditary blood disorders in which there is abnormal hemoglobin molecules in the red blood cells. The function of hemoglobin is to carry oxygen to all the tissues of the body. Diminished oxygen results in pain and eventual tissue damage. Sickle cell disease typically affects individuals throughout their lives. It is characterized by severe bouts of pain starting in infancy and troubling patients intermittently throughout their lives. The disease can cause sudden life-threatening complications as well as progressive damage to

many vital organs of the body.

As a result of the chronic, unpredictable nature of this disease as well as the physical pain, persons affected may suffer both emotional pain and psychological challenges.

Therefore the transition from childhood to adolescence and adult self-sufficiency is often very difficult. Efforts to secure education and maintain employment are often interrupted by

bouts of illness. Coping with these stressors calls for community resources and social supports. These are often non-existent or underutilized in the community.

The Bridges Pointe Foundation is a voluntary, 501 (c) (3) organization staffed by volunteers and funded by small public and private donations. Our mission is to develop community-based, innovative programs to address the specific needs of adolescents and young adults who are struggling with the physical and psychosocial complications of sickle cell disease. Health care providers and volunteers from Duke University Comprehensive Sickle Cell Center founded the organization in 1996 to address issues of affected persons as they transition to adulthood and self-sufficiency. Bridges was begun to complement medical care and to help patients and families improve coping and heal emotionally.

These psychosocial service needs are outside the scope of the medical center and have included housing, employment training and advocacy. The visionary for our organization was the late Dr. George Phillips, who first identified the need for residential and psychosocial services tailored to the needs of young adults in transition to adult self-sufficiency.

Bridges is the only social support service in the Triangle promoting the development of innovative services to this population and offering a range of health education and social supports to affected children, adults, and their family members.



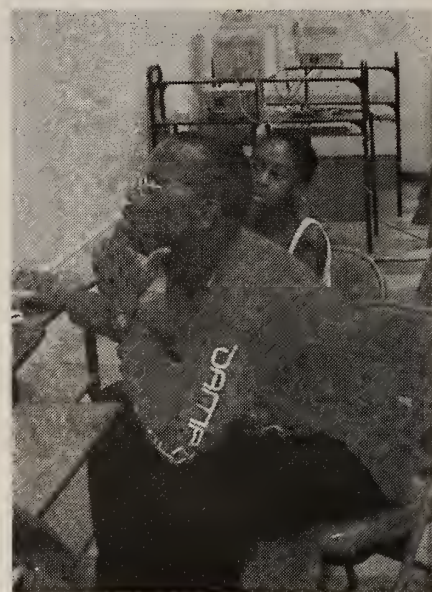
Elaine Whitworth

Furthermore, the Foundation is seeking to broaden the financial support base for this target population and the work required to develop adequate social support programs and services for this neglected problem. Telling the whole story will enhance community awareness and ownership of this issue.

Over the last four years our organization has progressed through partnerships with local collaborators, donations and financial support of volunteers and through program efforts of unpaid staff. We have established an office, initiated health promotion and computer training programs. The plans we have established, if adequately funded, will result in supportive housing for eight young adults and a day health service. Each September we hold our signature fundraiser to glean community support.

To accomplish our goals, we need to expand our support base. Bridges is seeking partners of individuals, businesses and the church community. If we don't care, who will? Join us in our efforts to build a brighter future.

To learn more about Bridges and/or sickle cell disease, visit the Bridges website at www.bridgespointe.org, call the



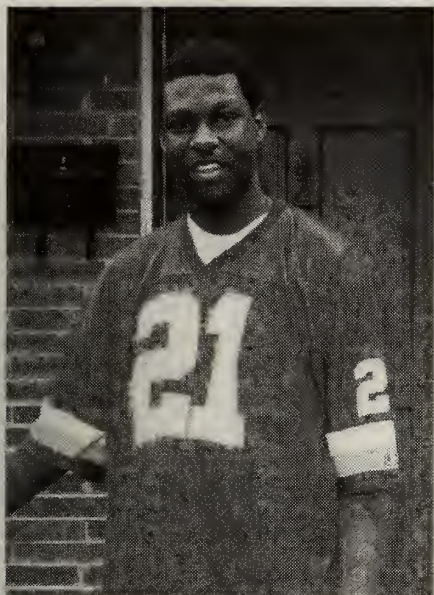
Bridges office at (919) 956-5321, or the Duke University Comprehensive Sickle Cell Center at (919) 684-6464. We hope you will get involved. Together we can change the detrimental and disabling impact sickle cell disease is having on our youth who have the desire and the often unfulfilled potential to be self-sufficient citizens in our community.



The Prayer Line

Rev. David K. Miles M.Div.
919-264-9249 9pm - 7am

ADOPTION AND FOSTER CARE NEWS



BILLY

Birthday: January 8, 1987

Introducing Billy...

Billy loves basketball and is rarely seen without one nearby. He is very athletic and has the skills and talent to be a good player. Billy also likes going to the gym, to the movies and playing video games. He likes to help others and often

does so without being asked. Billy gets along well with kids his own age and enjoys talking on the phone with friends.

Billy attends mainstream classes at school, but his grades suffer from a lack of motivation. He has not been tested for learning disabilities by the school, but it is believed that he is able to perform on grade level if he applies himself. Billy attends counseling to help him learn appropriate ways to express his negative feelings. His foster parents have seen many positive changes in Billy since coming into their care and they see a lot more potential for growth and improvement. Birthday: January 8, 1987

A Family for Billy...

Billy needs a strong male role model willing to help motivate him scholastically. His adoptive family will need to boost his confidence and guide him toward achieving his career goals. Billy needs a home with lots of structure, stability and consistency with clearly defined rules and expectations. He would like to remain in contact with his sister. (NC #060-1830)



ANTIONETTE

Birthday: October 24, 1992

Introducing Antionette...

This sweet little girl's foster mom says that Antionette is a joyful and loving child. She has a positive outlook on life, she accepts responsibility and she obeys the rules. She is good at making friends and being a "little sister." Antionette

enjoys church activities, especially singing in the choir. She mostly likes to play basketball and volleyball, but her Bratz and Diva dolls are special, too. Antionette's list of favorite foods can all be found at local fast food restaurants. Antionette's grades are average and she attends regular classes at school. Her favorite subjects are reading, science and spelling. She thinks she'd like to be a lawyer or basketball player when she grows up. Antionette does need to work a little on not letting her temper get away when she's upset. Birthday: October 24, 1992

A Family for Antionette...

Antionette wants a nice family that will provide for her. She's prefer a mom and a dad, but she'll consider a single mom. She says it would be nice if her adoptive family had a big house with some stairs. Mostly, she hopes they will let her remain in contact with her foster mom. (NC #026-1857)

For more information on these children or adoption in general please call the NC Kids Adoption and Foster Care Network's toll free hotline at 1-877-625-4371.



General Baptist State Convention of NC Inc. Adoption and Foster Care Ministry
in conjunction with
Bridges Inc.
presents



Southern Region Adoption and Foster Care Session

Theme: One Church, One Heart, One Child

Calling all faith communities, parent groups, and especially potential families



Special invitation for all ministers and pastors to attend this session to learn and understand the seriousness of adoption and foster care.

Want to become an adoptive or foster care parent? Find out more information about becoming a parent to a child waiting to be a part of your family.

*March 14, 2002
New Christian Chapel Baptist Church
2283 NC 11 South
Rose Hill, NC 28458*

Reverend Reginald Wells, Pastor

Please call for time about session

*For more information contact:
Dr. Dorothy Demby-Pidge 919-231-9774
Or Reverend Antionette Wright 919-570-0931*

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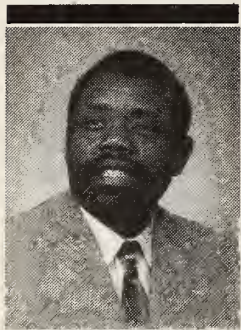
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or call Studio, 919-757-1023 Home 919-757-1135 - Ya'll Come!

Thought for the Month: God Made You Alive With Christ

By Reverend Ricky L. Banks

There's a difference between "really living" and "just existing". Christ is the source of our power to "really live".



Rev. Ricky Banks

God has made it possible for us to be rich in the qualities of love, hope, and faith. Yet, many are willing to draw upon the wonderful bank account of the Word of God. It's filled with all that we need to learn how to really live.

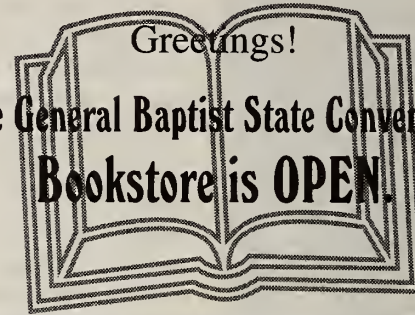
Almighty God desires to provide abundantly for us. But many of His children do not understand the riches they have in Christ and never draw upon them. They continue to live in poverty, leaving God's riches stored up unused. Be sure you are "really living" in the Lord.

We are delighted to bring our monthly

report on The Central Children's Home. We will be having Central Children's Home Day Celebration on June 21, 2003. The parade will begin at 10:00 a.m. downtown Oxford, North Carolina. The insurance for the Home has almost doubled since last year. We are still in need of your prayers and support for the Home. We would like to thank Rev. James Smith, Pastor of Mount Calvary Baptist Church, Bahama, North Carolina and Rev. Joseph F. Kearns, Pastor of The Greater St. John Missionary Baptist Church, Asheboro, North Carolina, and Rev. Landon B. Mason, Pastor of The Saunders Grove Baptist Church, Hertford, North Carolina for leading their churches in special services in support of the work at the Home. We thank all pastors and churches for the support you have given and thank you in advance for the support you are going to give.

Remember we still need all the support you give. If you need to contact us, please call us at (252) 335-5003 or (252) 339-3438. We would love to talk to you.

General Baptist Bookstore Update



Order your Vacation Bible School materials today!

We are having a clearance and liquidation sale. The bookstore will continue to carry GBSC publications; recommended books by our auxiliaries and books by GBSC authors. The Ministers Council has recommended the following book: *What The Bible Says To The Minister - The Minister's Personal Handbook*, \$17.00 including tax. Also we have special copies of the *GBSC Jubilee Bible*, \$39.95 and *The History of the GBSC - The Splended Enterprise*, Dr. W.B. Lewis, Dr. John Fleming and Dr. C.R. Trotter, \$32.95.

**Call today for clearance books and to place your orders,
800-639-GBSC or 919-821-7466.**

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Reference: Lewis Chapel in Hong Kong 2003

Shaw University Hosts 30th Annual Ministers' Conference

By Dr. Leonzo Lynch, Third Vice President

Raleigh, NC – (February 27, 2003) –



Dr. Leonzo Lynch

Shaw University Divinity School (SUDS) presents the 30th Annual James Z. Alexander/Albert W. Pegues Ministers' Conference on March 17 - March 19. Christian ministers and lay members from all denomina-

tions are invited to participate in this activity designed to perpetuate spiritual growth.

The conference begins with a Clergy and Community Health workshop and a seminar entitled Church and Community Development. These sessions address pertinent issues as they relate to health, and creating an optimal religious organi-

zation. Preaching clinics, to include certifications, will convene for the full three days. Dr. Rudolph Tripp, Director of SUDS Continuing Education program explains the benefits that attendees will receive. "This conference is going to be a conference with passion for strengthening the church and community. We are trying to offer something for both pastors and laypersons."

The roster of conference preachers includes:

Bishop Kenneth Ulmer of Faith Central Bible Church, Los Angeles, CA
Reverend Anthonette Wright of Gethsemane Baptist Church, Louisburg
Reverend Dr. H. C. Miller of Tupper Memorial Baptist Church, Raleigh
Reverend Dr. Greg Moss of St. Paul Baptist Church, Charlotte

Reverend Dr. Thomas J. Boyd, Pastor of Salem Missionary Baptist Church in Brooklyn, N. Y. is the conference lecturer.

For more information or to register, please call (919) 546-8569.

Dr. Thomas J. Boyd Speaks at Seminar

Raleigh, NC – (February 21, 2003) – Shaw alumnus, the Reverend Dr. Thomas J. Boyd will speak at the Thomas J. Boyd Chapel on Sunday, March 16th at 6:00 p.m. for the University's annual Thomas J. Boyd Sunday.

Dr. Boyd, for whom the service and chapel are named, is the Pastor of Salem Baptist Church in Brooklyn, NY. He served as a preacher and as the assistant to the pastor for five years before assuming pastoral responsibilities. Under his

leadership, the congregation has experienced significant growth. The church facilities have been enlarged and there is a greater focus on ministry outreach in the community.

Dr. Boyd is a 1948 graduate of Shaw. While matriculating he was elected the Student Body President in his senior year. He also pastored Pleasant Plains Baptist Church in Ahoskie and later he pastored First Baptist Church in Conway, while an undergraduate student.

Shaw University Professor Honored With Lamplighter Award

Raleigh, NC – (February 26, 2003) – Ms. L. Cornwall, Shaw University Visual & Performing Arts Music Instructor was honored at the annual Lamplighter Awards for Music Outreach. The ceremony was sponsored by The Light 103.9 FM to honor those who use their talents and resources to enforce positive change in the community.

Music is a language that Ms. Cornwall speaks fluently. She is the founder of Ebony Rising, a concert series in which she features young artists who perform music arranged by African and African-American composers. She is the State Workers' Choir Director, an ensemble of volunteer state employees who sing annually in celebration of the Dr. Martin Luther King Holiday. Cornwall is also a vocal coach, accompanist, liturgist, composer, arranger and a Minister of Music at

the First Reformed Church of Cary. She was delighted to have received this award. "I was very honored and humbled. It is the dream of all artists to reach their public and have their art recognized, accepted and appreciated. It has fueled my energies to reach higher heights."

Cornwall earned four degrees from the Manhattan School of Music, the Bachelor of Music in Theory, the Master of Music Composition, the Master of Composition, and the Master of Education. She earned the Master of Sacred Music from the former Union Theological Seminary in New York, presently at Yale University in New Haven, CT. Ms. Cornwall is currently pursuing the Doctor of Education (Music and Music Education) at Columbia University.

Alumni Conference Luncheon

The Shaw University Divinity School Alumni Association will be holding its Annual Hampton Ministers' Conference Luncheon on Wednesday, June 4th at 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Hotel

and Conference Center on 1815 West Mercury Blvd., Hampton, Virginia. All alumni and friends are welcome. Come out and get the latest update on what's happening at the Divinity School.

A Fresh Look at the New Testament Deacon

By John H. Walker, D. Min.

NOW AVAILABLE!

There is a critical problem concerning the Deacons and the local church, state and national conventions. The Deacons are assuming leadership roles without being equipped for the task of leadership. The relationship between the pastor and deacon is widening because there is a misunderstanding concerning the mission of the church, pastoral leadership, and the role of the deacons.

This book is a must tool to bridge the gap between the role of Pastor and Deacons in order to provide EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP.

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W02	A Fresh Look at the New Testament Deacon Workbook	\$12.95	
Item #	Title	Qty.	Price

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Dr. John H. Walker, D. Min. • Office Phone (704) 392-8496 • Email: jhenwalk@hotmail.com

Fellowship Repass at the Hampton Ministers' Conference

All members of the General Baptist State Convention who will be attending the 89th Hampton Ministers' Conference are invited to share in a Fellowship Repass sponsored by Shaw University Divinity School. The fellowship will take place on June 3, 2003, at the Holiday Inn

Hampton Hotel and Conference Center following the Tuesday evening sermon by the Conference Preacher. Come and share with us, greet the Divinity School faculty and staff as well as the officers and members of the General Baptist State Convention.

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SUPPORT YOUR OWN -- PLEASE!

Supporting Our Work By Supporting Our Banquet

By Dr. T.B. Everett, Chairman
Housing Committee

Greetings to the General Baptist family and all of our friends and supporters.



Dr. Thurman Everett

It is my prayer that the year 2003 be filled with the blessings of God for each of you.

It gives me great pleasure to report to you that 2002 was a blessed year for our work. We completed three more houses in Princeville,

N.C., that will be the homes of Hurricane Floyd survivors. To God be the glory.

Lena Springs Acres, Affordable Housing development located in Navassa, N.C., is well underway. We conducted a ground breaking ceremony on May 31, 2002, to begin the infrastructure construction, i.e. land clearing, sewer, water, drainage, curbs, streets and pedestrian improvements. The actual work began the second week of June.

The sewer and water lines were installed and the streets were paved. We are now ready to begin construction on the first of 25 homes to be built for Hurricane Floyd survivors. To God be the glory. Our year was closed out with our annual Housing Banquet, which featured the Honorable William Jefferson Clinton, the 42nd president of the United States. The banquet was a tremendous success thanks to each of you. Without your generous support we would have never succeeded. Thank you, so very much. By giving your love and substance the Lord will bless you. Psalms 41:1 reads: "Blessed is he that considereth the poor: The Lord will deliver him in time of trouble." Not only will the Lord bless you, but history will bless you for years yet to come because you simply gave of yourselves...

Listed below are those that supported our work by supporting our banquet:

Ebenezer Baptist Church
St. James Baptist Church
First Baptist Church
Baptist Grove Church
Pleasant Hill/First Baptist Church
Dr. E. B. Turner
Mt. Olive Baptist Church
Bryant Swamp Baptist Church
Walnut Grove Baptist Church
Rev. Dr. Zebedee C. Herring
Rev. Lincoln Blanding
Bridges, Inc. - Christian Ministry
Rev. Thurman B. Everett
Peggy E. Gerald

Mary G. Gowans
Horace Grove Baptist Church
Johnston District Association
Mt. Tabor Baptist Church
Jennie Mae Vann
Lawson Chapel Baptist Church
Temple Memorial Baptist Church
Zion Association
Sandra Hicks
Mecklenburg General Association
New Hope Baptist Association
First Baptist Church
Halifax County Missionary Union
Mt. Ebrew Missionary Baptist Church
NC Housing Finance Agency
Neuse River Woman's Auxiliary
Rivenbark Construction Co.
Rev. Lycurgus Harrell
Mt. Zion Baptist Church
Neuse River Association
Bob Etheridge for Congress Committee
Columbus Bladen Miss. Bapt. Union
Faith Victory & Freedom Min. Int'l
First Greater Living Baptist Church
Garland First Baptist Church
Good Hope Baptist Church
Teresa C. Graham
Imperial Trucking
Rev. Calvin E. Johnson
United Cornerstone Baptist Church
Watts Chapel Missionary Baptist Church
Guilford Educational Association
Pleasant Grove Baptist Church
Tar River Association
First Baptist Church
Haywood Baptist Church
Mt. Zion Baptist Church
Mud Creek Association
Nazareth 1st Baptist Church
Carrye W. Pritchett
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James A. Williams
Marion G. Miles
Marva Mapson Robinson
Belton Creek Baptist Church
Jim Black
Dr. Andre Carr, Sr.
Bernell N. Cooper
Davis Chapel Baptist Church
East Cedar Grove Association
Fairmont Baptist Church
Dr. Clarence B. Gray
Kate Hearn
Rev. Bernard Holliday
Anthony V. Hunt
E. M. Latta
Law Office of Stephany Hand
William McCoy
Mitchell Baptist Church
Mt. Peace Baptist Church
Carrie S. Newkirk
Oak Grove Baptist Church
Piney Grove Baptist Church
Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Masons
Quankey Missionary Baptist Church
Roanoke Chapel Baptist Church
Clifford J. Robinson

Shirley Ann Robinson
South Street Baptist Church
Tabernacle Baptist Church
Town of Navassa
Tried Stone Baptist Church
Turner-Wilcox Farms
United Shiloh Association
Wake Baptist Grove Church
West Roanoke Association
Ms. Maya Angelou
B & C Associates, Inc.
Bear Creek Association
First African Baptist Church
Phyllis B. Fulton
Lula Gainey
Dilcy Hall
Rev. Eric L. Harris
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Jim Long Election Committee
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H.C. Stevens Attorney at Law
Dr. Maurice B. Hayes
Ellis L. Hunt
Lewis Chapel Miss. Baptist Church
Dr. Archie D. Logan, Jr.

John McNeill
Mike McIntyre for Congress
Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church
James N. Rich
Vinston M. Rozier, Sr.
Union Association Laymen's League
Upper Room Baptist Church
Vic's Electric
BlueCross BlueShield of NC
Committee to Elect Ralph Campbell
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Henry E. Frye
Gantt Huberman Architects
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DR. WILLETTE CAMPBELL WOOTEN



GBSC Housing Chairman and Vice Chairman Appointed

By Dr. T.B. Everett, Chairman
Housing Committee

Greetings with the joy of Jesus Christ the Lord.

It is my pleasure and honor to convey that our president Dr. Charles Bullock has appointed me to succeed myself as the Housing Chairman for GBSC for the next 4 years. To God be the glory.

I pledge my loyal support to our president and the entire GBSC family. Be it God's will I plan to hold my corner at all cost, and be faithful until the end.

To assist me in this awesome task I have appointed Rev. Winston M. Rozier, Sr. as the Vice-Chairman of Housing. We are indeed blessed to have Rev. Rozier as a member of our team. He is endowed with many gifts and a wealth of housing knowledge, all backed up by impeccable character. Please join me in welcoming Rev. Rozier to this level of responsibility.

Biography of Winston M. Rozier, Sr.

Vinston M. Rozier, Sr. is a licensed insurance salesman, a licensed real estate salesman, a pastor, an instructor, and a Bladen County Board of Education member.

Vinston was born in Bladen County to Joseph and Lue Bertha Rozier in February 1948. He was educated in the public schools of Bladen County and became a member of Second New Light Missionary Baptist Church in 1961.

After graduating from Bladen County High School in 1966, Vinston attended Fayetteville Community College and completed a course in house painting and interior decorating. He then joined the United States Air Force and entered the field of security and law enforcement.

Upon returning to North Carolina, he returned to the Carolina Telephone Company where he had worked three

months before joining the Air Force. His work history continued in 1971 as an employee of Dupont Company. Realizing that he needed to continue his education, he entered and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business and Economics from Shaw University in 1977. While attending college, he worked for Household Finance and became the assistant manager as well as the collection manager of the office.

After graduating from Shaw University, he was licensed by the North Carolina Department as an insurance agent. In 1978, he was licensed as a property insurance salesman. Vinston worked in the field of insurance exclusively until 1984. He then added to his career housing, when he went to work for an exterminating company, to study the process of house inspection.

Vinston was licensed as a Real Estate

salesman since 1988 and as pastor of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Lumberton, NC since October 1991. In addition to his pastorate, he is an inventoried properties manager for Homeworks Customer Builders Company, Fayetteville, NC.

In addition to his other activities, Vinston is an elected member of the Bladen County Board of Education and a member of the Housing Committee of the General Baptist State Convention of NC. In 1999, he attended Bible College in Myrtle Beach, SC under the instruction of Dr. Thurman B. Everett and is presently an instructor at the College of Disciples of Christ School of Ministry at the Elizabethtown location.

Vinston is married to the former Lynne Sheppard, a Bladen County School teacher and the father of one son, Attorney Vinston M. Rozier, Jr., and a daughter-in-law, Attorney Dakasta Rozier.

BRYANT SWAMP MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH Pastor's 7th Anniversary Celebration

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Bladenboro, NC 28320

Bryant Swamp Missionary Baptist Church Pastor's 7th Anniversary Celebration

Thurman B. Everett, Pastor
Greetings,

The Bryant Swamp Missionary Baptist Church Family cordially invites you to join us in celebrating the 7th Pastoral Anniversary of the Reverend Thurman B. Everett. We would like for you to be a part of this grand occasion honoring our pastor's faithfulness in the building of God's Kingdom.

Any individual, ministry or organization that would like to be a blessing to Pastor Everett by making a special presentation or love offering is asked to complete a Presentation Form. Forms must be returned by April 30, 2003. Please return all presentations/love offerings to Bryant Swamp Missionary Baptist Church, but make checks payable to Thurman B. Everett.

A Souvenir Book is being compiled for this special occasion. If you are interested in placing a personal or business ad, special greetings/expressions of love, or adding your name as a patron in the Souvenir Book, please submit a Patron Advertisement Form and return to Bryant Swamp Missionary Baptist Church by

April 30, 2003. Checks for Ads should be made payable to Bryant Swamp Pastor's Aide Committee.

A semi-formal/formal Anniversary Banquet will held on May 31, 2003 at 6:00 p.m. at the Lumber River Baptist Association Building, 301 Lincoln St., Lumberton, NC 28358. The keynote speaker will be Rev. Dr. John D. Fuller, Pastor of Lewis Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, Fayetteville, NC. Tickets for the banquet are \$15.00 and can be obtained by contacting Mrs. Wilhemina Everett at (910) 371-2196. Please see the schedule of events for ticket details. The deadline to purchase tickets is Friday, May 23, 2003.

Please submit all information by the deadlines listed to:

Bryant Swamp Missionary Baptist Church
P. O. Box 875
Bladenboro, NC 28320

Thank you for your participation and may God Bless You. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Everett at (910) 371-2196, Cheryl Shaw at (910) 642-2706 or Teresa Graham at (910) 654-5384.

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Americans, West Africans "Join Feet" In New York City Crop Walk

Submitted by Carol J. Smith
Managing Editor

Eight church leaders from West Africa and some 200 New Yorkers "joined feet" in the third annual Manhattan CROP WALK fund raiser



Carol J. Smith

today to help the global humanitarian agency Church World Service fight hunger in the United States and around the world.

For the New Yorkers, the West Africans helped "put a human face on hunger" as they talked about the poverty and conflict that trouble their region and their continent. The West Africans, for their part, expressed appreciation for these Americans' commitment to help people in need.

The Manhattan event is one of 2,500 Crop Walks organized every year by local communities across the United States, which together raise between \$16 million and \$23 million. One-fourth of funds benefit local hunger-fighting projects; the

rest is used to meet needs in the more than 80 countries in which Church World Service works.

CWS works in partnership with churches, councils of churches and other organizations to use the resources where they are most needed. "That's what I really appreciate about the Crop Walk," said Ena Malone, a walker from Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church. "We send money to local partners who know best how to address the particular problems where they live."

These ecumenical leaders from the Mano River Union countries of Liberia, Guinea, Sierra Leone along with delegates from The Gambia and Ghana are seeking to mobilize support for a resolution of civil conflict and poverty in their region.

"I have been told about the Crop Walks," said Mr. Baffour Amoa, of Ghana. "I am walking on behalf of all the people who have benefited over the years, in gratitude to the people of America for giving their time and energy to the less fortunate. I am here to give a face to the millions who benefit from Crop Walk."

Addressing Manhattan Crop Walkers at the post-walk celebration, he said, "I have learned something. I had no idea of the effort others put in the sake of those who are deprived in our part of the world.

This is a time of thanksgiving for us. Thank you for your sacrifice. So many lives get touched and saved because you walk."

Mr. Amoa is Secretary General of the Fellowship of Churches and Councils in West Africa, a regional body comprising seven national Christian councils and five other churches. The other West African delegation of three women and six men represent national ecumenical bodies.

"We are especially humbled to have two Anglican bishops with us from Guinea and The Gambia," said walker Kendall Haynes, a Master of Divinity student at General (Episcopal) Theological Seminary in New York City.

Mr. Haynes raised \$1,164 from fellow students by making pledge cards, going table to table in the seminary refectory "and just stating an expectation. If future priests can't provide a model of stewardship, we're a sinking ship," he said.

The root of war, Mr. Haynes said, "is who has power over the resources. Whoever is for peace is for elimination of world hunger. God isn't an idea. Support isn't an idea. Our support is tangible. That's what I appreciate about CWS Crop Walk."

The Rev. John L. McCullough, Church World Service Executive Director,

participated in the Crop Walk. At the closing celebration, he emphasized the importance of the walkers' contribution.

"How many of you in this room has two dollars?" he asked those assembled. All hands shot up. "How many have been able to do everything you needed to do today on less than two dollars?" No one raised a hand.

"2.8 billion people in the world live on less than \$2 a day," the Rev. McCullough reminded his audience. He continued, speaking of the 113 million primary school-aged children who can't go to school, one billion people who lack access to clean drinking water, two billion without adequate sanitation out of the world's four billion population.

"These are some of the reasons we walk," he said. "You are walking in solidarity with billions around the world who should have opportunity to enjoy life in the same kinds of ways as we do."

Along the course of the two-mile Crop Walk, passers-by expressed curiosity, asking, "Are you protesting something?" Walkers responded by stopping to talk and offering flyers explaining the Crop Walk. Commented Ena Malone from Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church, "The Crop Walk offers the perfect combination, raising both money and awareness."

April Fooling: Don't Get Taken by Tax Scams

By Attorney General Roy Cooper

When the poet T. S. Eliot wrote "April is the cruellest month", he wasn't thinking about having to file his taxes, but many of us experience extra stress as the April 15th tax deadline draws near. As you work to get your federal and state income taxes filed on time, don't get fooled by scam artists who are looking to take advantage of taxpayers.

The IRS recently issued a warning about tax scams that involve **identity theft**. Identity theft happens when a criminal steals some piece of personal information about you and uses it to commit fraud in your name, such as opening up a credit card account, getting a cell phone, applying for a loan or even filing a phony tax return. In one recent scam, fraudulent tax preparers took information from clients' tax forms, including Social Security numbers and financial information, and used it to commit identity theft. Consumers should also watch out for scammers who send fictitious bank and tax forms in an attempt to trick you into giving up your personal information.

If you decide to seek help from a commercial tax service, keep in mind that tax preparers will have access to some of your most sensitive personal and financial information. It is important to make sure

that you are dealing with someone reputable. Before you disclose personal financial information to anyone, find out how it will be used and whether or not it will be kept confidential. To check up on a commercial tax service or to learn how to protect yourself against identity theft, contact my Consumer Protection Division at (919) 716-6000.

Consumers who go with a commercial tax service should also think carefully before they sign up for a **Refund Anticipation Loan (RALs)**. RALs are short-term, high-interest loans guaranteed by your tax refund. Like payday lenders, RALs target hardworking taxpayers who can least afford interest rates that run as high as 774%. Forty percent of the taxpayers who take out an RAL receive the Earned Income Tax Credit, a federal tax credit for low-income workers. Also like payday lenders, RAL lenders funnel their loans through out-of-state banks to avoid state laws that cap interest rates.

If you are in a hurry to get your tax refund back and are considering an RAL, make sure that it is the right choice for your financial circumstances. Many consumers who get these expensive loans aren't aware that they are borrowing against their tax refund. Consumers often end up taking an RAL because they are

promised a quick refund to help cover the costs of commercial tax preparation.

Some tax services issue consumers a credit card that they are supposed to use to claim their rapid refund, but the cards sometimes turn out to be defective. Before you sign up for a quick refund, read the fine print to make sure you aren't taking out a loan.

Telemarketing fraud artists often get into the tax scam act, too. You've won a prize, they claim, but must wire or transmit money to cover taxes in order to claim the award. No legitimate sweepstakes promotion operates this way. In North Carolina, it is against the law to require a purchase or the payment of advance fees and taxes in order to receive a prize. While prize winners may need to pay taxes on their award, that payment goes to the IRS, not to the prize giver. If you win a real prize, the company will send both you and the IRS a Form 1099 stating the total prize value to be reported on your tax return.

To protect yourself from any kind of telemarketing scam, never send money in order to get a "free" prize, never send payments in advance, and never give out your bank, credit card or social security numbers over the telephone unless you initiated the call and know that the com-

pany is legitimate.

Consumers must also be on their guard against scam artists who promise **special tax payments or refunds**. Some of these scams specifically target African-Americans, promising special tax credits under the guise of slave reparations. The "Black Heritage Tax Credit" or "Black Inheritance Tax Refund" scam charges fees for information and claim forms for a tax credit that does not exist. In 2001, close to 80,000 taxpayers filed claims for phony Native American Reparation tax credits. Remember, there are currently no reparation tax credits. Anyone who says differently is trying to scam you or has been duped by one of these scams.

If you have questions about reparation tax scams, call the IRS customer service line at (800) 829-1040. To report suspected tax fraud of any kind, call (800) 829-0433. You can also call my Consumer Protection Division at (919) 716-6000.

Attorney General Roy Cooper and his staff are on the lookout for scams that seek to rob unsuspecting North Carolinians. We are here to be of service when you need us, but through consumer education efforts like these columns we hope to help consumers avoid problems from the start.

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FRAUD ALERT:

Church Congregations Targeted with "Stranded Family" Scam

By David N. Kirkman,
Assistant Attorney General
Consumer Protection Division,
NC Department of Justice

The Shelby Police Department reports that a church in that community was successfully targeted recently by scammers claiming that a family moving down from New York and planning to join the church was stranded in Virginia with mechanical problems. The first scammer, posing as a pastor with a church in New York City, stated that the stranded family possessed a check for \$11,000 but that the Virginia banks would not honor it right away. He also claimed that the family needed \$850 wired to them right away in order to pay the mechanic and complete their journey to

Shelby.

The Shelby Church was given a phone number to call in Virginia in order to make contact with the supposedly stranded family. A woman answered and indicated that her family did have a check for \$11,000 but that the mechanic was demanding cash. She requested that the church wire \$850 via Money Gram, which was done. She further promised to repay the \$850 upon arriving in Shelby and joining the church. No such family ever arrived to join or repay the church.

A similar incident was reported last week in Richmond County, NC. That one involved a caller who claimed to be a church pastor in Philadelphia. The church was persuaded to wire \$600 to a supposedly stranded family in Maryland via Western Union.

GBSC Is Available To Work With Churches

By Dr. Archie D. Logan Jr.

Greetings! The General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina is available to work with your church during the time you do not have a Pastor. We will work with the Deacons and other officers to provide guidance as you search for a new pastor to lead your church.

Some of the things we offer:

- We have ordained Baptist ministers available to assist the Deacons in carrying out the Church Ordinances: Lord Supper and Baptism.
- We have ordained clergy who can serve as an "Interim Minister" in your church.
- Some suggested workshops:

- ✓ How To Select An Interim Pastor?
- ✓ How To Call A Pastor?
- ✓ How Much Should We Pay Our Pastor?
- ✓ Church Administration
- ✓ How To Plan A Church Budget
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Please call if you are interested in any of these services!

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Dr. E.V. Hill Homegoing Services

Dr. Edward Victor ("E.V.") Hill, one of America's most beloved preachers and pastors, went home to be with the Lord on Monday, February 24, 2003, at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles. Dr. Hill, 69, had been hospitalized since February 8. In his last few months of preaching, Dr. Hill had to preach sitting down due to a condition that weakened his legs.

Dr. Hill was known throughout the nation for his thunderous delivery and yet a pastor's heart. He served as Pastor of Mount Zion for 41 years after pastoring briefly in Texas. He was a frequent guest of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc.

He led Mount Zion into various areas of ministries and was ahead of his time in political and social activism. He was a builder of units of senior housing and ministered to multitudes through television, radio, books, credit union, clothing for the poor and The Lord's Kitchen.

Politically active, Dr. Hill gave the

Inaugural prayer for President Richard Nixon's second term and twice led clergy committees for Ronald Reagan's presidency.

Dr. Hill preached for many years on the Trinity Broadcasting Network and had his own program which highlighted his preaching ministry. He regularly appeared at Promise Keepers Rallies across the nation. He also appeared on the PTL Network.

He was a strong voice in the Convention circles. He was the Youth President of the National Baptist Convention of America in his youth, and continued his support of that Convention's Foreign Mission Board. He was a leader of the 7.5 million member National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc., and ran for the presidency after the resignation of then president Dr. Henry Lyons.

Dr. Hill was born in Texas on November 11, 1933, in a log cabin. He went to Missionary Baptist Church. While there, he helped from the Southern

Christian Leadership Conference and personally nominated Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. as its president. He came to Los Angeles to pastor Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church in 1961 and became one of Los Angeles' most prolific and influential ministers.

In 1972 he became the youngest president of the California State Baptist Convention. He was co-Chairman of the Baptist World Alliance, an associate professor of evangelism for the Billy Graham Evangelism Association. In 1971 he was among eight black clergy to meet private-

ly with President Nixon. He served as Chairman of the L.A. Economic Opportunity Committee and chairman of the Fire Commission. He served on the L.A. Planning Commission and Housing Authority.

He is survived by his wife, La Dean, whom he married in 1992 after his first wife, Jane Edna Hill, died in 1987; one son, Reverend Edward Victor Hill, Jr. One daughter, Norva Rose Kennard, a Boston attorney; and a stepson, Lawrence Anthony Donald, Orlando, FL; and three grandsons.



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1st Annual Joseph C. Paige Golf Classic

By Earl Horton
Director of Public Relations

The GBSC Adoption and Foster Care Ministry is pleased to announce the 1st



Earl Horton

Our objective for the tournament is to raise money to continue our Adoption and Foster Care Ministry of recruiting African American families for African American children who are in the state welfare system and in need of permanent homes. The ministry also hopes to raise consciousness of the dire need for families seriously interested in adoption and foster care not only in the faith community but also in the entire African American community. The ministry travels throughout the state to churches to recruit, inform and educate families who are serious about adoption and/or foster care.

Annual Joseph C. Paige Golf Classic to be held on Friday, May 23rd at Bull Creek Golf Course (499 Massenburg Baker Rd., Louisburg, NC) with registration beginning at 8:00 a.m. and tee time beginning at 9:00 a.m.

The golf classic is named in memory of the founder, the late Reverend Dr. Joseph C. Paige who was the visionary for the GBSC Adoption and Foster Care Ministry starting in 1997. Dr. Paige was concerned with the disparity of African American children in the state child welfare system. With the blessing of the GBSC, Dr. Paige accepted the mission of recruiting families in the African American faith communities.

The golf tournament will consist of four men, women, or co-ed on each team. We anticipate having 30 teams enter the classic. There will be trophies to be given out to the first, second, and third place winners. Also, additional individual prizes will be given for the closest ball to the pin, and longest drive. A special prize will be given to the tournament participant who makes a hole in one. D&J Motors has graciously donated a 2003 Chevy Tahoe to the tournament participant who makes this feat.

We are praying that state and local officials, pastors, celebrities, Greek organizations, businesses will participate in the golf classic.

How can you help our ministry make our tournament a success?

We are asking for all GBSC churches to make a donation to the Adoption and Foster Care Ministry. There are golf holes and score cards available for churches to sponsor.

The Joseph C. Paige Sr. 2003 Golf Classic

**Proceeds will benefit
The GBSC Adoption and
Foster Care Ministry**

Date: May 23, 2003

**Place: Bull Creek Golf Course
Louisburg, NC**

**Registration: 8:00 AM
Tee Time: 9:00 AM**

**Pre-register by: May 7th
(Mid-Year Session- Greenville, NC)**

Entry fees:
• \$250 per team (4 Player-Captain's Choice)
Includes green fees & cart.

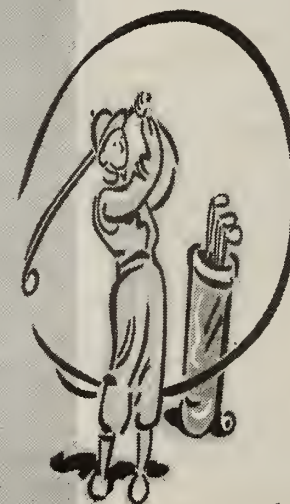
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Rev. Odell Hill Licenses First Woman Minister to Preach Gospel

Leddia Frost Chapman is the wife of David F. Chapman, Jr. and has one child, David F. Chapman, III. She is the daughter of William and Ari Mae Frost also of Maysville, NC. Ms. Chapman is a member of First Missionary Baptist Church which she has attended all her life. She joined the Church in May 1968 where she began to work as the Secretary of Sunday School. For several years she has served as a Sunday School teacher since 1986 where she has taught the young kids and teenagers. She is also the Church Secretary and has been since 1984.

On February 2, 2003, as "The Friendly Church on the Hill" opened its doors for the 3:00 service it was packed, and there was no standing room and God was in the house. His presence could be felt all over the Church. Pastor Moore

was given a vision by God on how to rearrange the pulpit and just have all the women Ministers of the various churches sit for that special occasion. Pastor Moore was being led by the Holy Spirit. As the Holy Spirit began to move through the Church it took control of the program from there on.

After a heartwarming introduction by her husband David F. Chapman, Jr., the choir of St. Luke AMEZ Church sang the 121 Psalm which really opened the heart and mind of Ms. Leddia Chapman, because that is one of her favorite songs and scriptures that she quotes every day. Her sermon was taken from the book of Acts 3:1-7 subject "Living in a Crippled World." She expounded on life as the lame beggar and how we all live in a crippled world today. ■



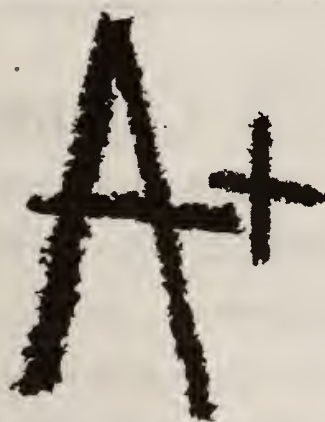
Pictured above Leddia Frost Chapman receives license to preach by Rev. Odell Moore.

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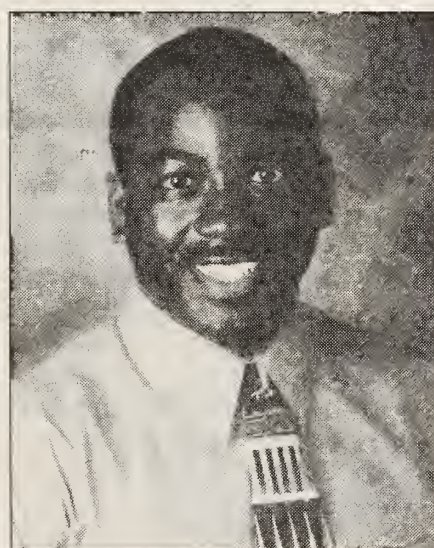
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Farland Travels to Africa



Melvin S. Farland, Jr., M.D. is the son of Melvin Farland, Sr. and Gladys G. W. Farland. He is currently completing

residency at Florida Hospital Family Practice Residency in Orlando, FL. He is scheduled to graduate June 2003. He completed medical school at UNC School of Medicine in Chapel Hill with the Class of 2000.

He will be traveling to Ghana, Africa, February 15 - March 10, 2003, to providemedical care to the underserved with the Florida Hospital SHARES mission group. This group provides health care services and education to developing countries, with the primary focus being the treatment of children.

On the side, Farland coaches all-star cheerleading at American Cheer Elite in Virginia Beach, VA. He has won four national cheerleading titles in his 10 years of coaching.

Please pray for him during his journey in Africa. ■

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J.J. JOHNSON BAPTIST ASSEMBLY INFORMATION

The Site:

The J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly is a tract of land comprising seventy-five (75) or more acres, much of which is covered with a mixture of North Carolina Pine, red and white oak trees. The location of the Baptist Assembly is on more than 75 rolling acres in Laurel Hill, North Carolina in Scotland County.

In 1967, approximately two-thirds of the acreage was donated by Dr. and Mrs. Joy J. Johnson and their daughter, Deborah (Mrs. Alexander Killiens). Additional acres were purchased by the Woman's Convention and General Baptist State Convention.

Our Purpose:

The purpose of the J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly in Laurel Hill is to provide a setting that is Christian in its atmosphere and is conducive to learning, worship, and meeting the needs of all individuals whom we serve. It seeks to provide opportunities for everyone to learn habits of good citizenship, and it provides at the same time opportunities to reach a maximum potential for Christian fellowship and fun experiences through democratic ideals and living.

The facility exists for the exclusive use by religious groups and/or organizations with similar aims regardless of ethnic origin.

Meeting Facilities:

At the J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly, there are various meeting facilities available. Listed below are the seating capacity (theater style) and lodging:

- ♦ Rowan Association Chapel Seating Capacity: 300-400
- ♦ Horne Lodge Seating Capacity: 20-25, Sleeps 12
- ♦ Alston Lodge Seating Capacity: 100, Sleeps 64
- ♦ Lumber Bridge Association Lodge Seating Capacity: 100, Sleeps 64
- ♦ Brown Assembly Dining Hall Seating Capacity: 200
(Cafeteria Style)

Individuals should bring their own linen, blankets, soap and other toiletries for the lodging facilities.

"And gathered them out of the lands, from the east, and from the west, from the north, and from the south." Psalm 107:3

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AIL, P.O. BOX 18825, RALEIGH, NC 27619-8825

Current Annual Events

During the course of the year, the Conventional Family sponsors different ministries at the J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly. Among these are the following:

- ♦ Vacation Bible School (GBSC) – March
- ♦ Ministers' Wives Retreat (WBSC) – May
- ♦ Laymen's League Mini-Skills Retreat (GBSC) – May
- ♦ Leadership Training Conference (GBSC) – June
- ♦ Youth Bible Camp (WBSC) – June
- ♦ Laymen's League Boy's Summer Retreat (GBSC) – July
- ♦ Laymen's League Scouting Jamboree (GBSC) – August
- ♦ Laymen's League Men's Retreat (GBSC) – September
- ♦ North Carolina Branch of the 9th and 10th Calvary (Buffalo Soldiers) – October
- ♦ Usher's Retreat/Workshop (GBSC) – November
- ♦ Laymen's League Planning Session – December

The campus is available year round for meetings, weddings, banquets, family reunions, and other activities. Contact Rev. Eric Harris for the policies and procedures regarding each type of event.

Send Applications & Funds to:
General Baptist State Convention
J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly
603 S. Wilmington Street
Raleigh, NC 27601

(Make checks payable to J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly)

Sources: "1974" Brochure and the J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly Guide And Handbook (1985).

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CLASSIFIEDS

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PASTORS

CHAPEL HILL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH – Autryville, NC: seeks a pastor to serve as its spiritual leader, teacher, counselor, and administrator. Some requirements are as followed:

- Must be born-again as evidenced by character and dedication
- Licensed, ordained Baptist minister
- Ability to preach/teach and have administrative skills
- Five years of pastoral experience preferred

- Some theological courses completed, and continuing
- Knowledge of Baptist doctrine, policies and procedures
- A resume, letter of interest, including a vision statement of their ministry
- Legible copies of ministerial license and ordination certification
- References: Include name, address and phone number, (1) Family reference, (1) Business reference, (1) Professional reference and (2) references from pastors familiar with your character and ministry

• Other criteria will be discussed during interviews

Please mail any applications/resumes and/or related material to:

Chapel Hill Missionary Baptist Church
Attn: Deacon Bobby R. McAllister
1450 Sivertsen Road
PO Box 434
Autryville, NC 28318-8064
Ph.: (910) 567-2961

MILL NECK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH – Como, NC: currently accepting applications for a Pastor with strong Missionary Baptist roots. We are affiliated with the West Roanoke Missionary Baptist Association and the General Baptist State convention. *Interested applicants should provide a resume to:* Carolyn M. Farrow, Secretary, Pastor Search Committee, Mill Neck Missionary Baptist Church, P.O. Box 68, Mill Neck Rd., Como, NC 27818.

HILL STREET BAPTIST CHURCH – Asheville, NC: accepting applications for a spirit-filled leader. Our Pastor, Dr. Nilous M. Avery, with 51 years of continued, dedicated service, recently retired. The congregation of the Hill Street Baptist Church, Asheville, NC is now ready to receive resumes. We pray for applicants who:

- are born again
 - are divinely called and ordained (*1 Timothy 3:1-7*)
 - are spiritually mature
 - are gifted in preaching and teaching the Word of God to all ages
 - have a vision for the future of the church
 - are experienced in Christian counseling, mediation and administration
 - have a college degree and seminary training but will consider a combination of education and experience.
- Titus 1:9 says: "holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both the exhort and to convince the gainsayers."*
- It is important to have a leader who can effectively preach the Word of God, but it is even more important to have one who lives out God's Word and is an example for others to follow.

Mail resumes & serious inquiries to: Pastor Search Team, Hill Street Baptist Church, P.O. Box 327, Asheville, NC 28802. Deadline for resumes is March 15, 2003. "The Mission of the Hill Street Baptist Church through the power of God's grace, is to witness, to serve and to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ to all people."

BUNCOMBE BAPTIST CHURCH – Lexington, NC: accepting resumes from interested licensed ordained Missionary Baptist ministers.

Qualifications:

- Born again Christian
- Concerned with spiritual and intellectual growth of the church
- Ability to preach and teach God's Word
- Must be willing to teach and follow the

Baptist Doctrines, policies and practices

- Ability to work with all age groups in the church

- Ability to carry out administrative, leadership and counseling duties
- Work cooperatively with church officials
- Family and community oriented
- Teach Bible Study and attend Sunday School and prayer meetings
- Theological and/or Seminary training preferred
- Good communications skills
- Must be a good role model of moral and ethical conduct

Please send resumes and inquiries to: Buncombe Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1533, Lexington, NC 27293.

GUILDFIELD M.B. CHURCH – New Bern, NC: currently accepting applications for a Pastor. Guildfield M.B. Church is an established church with a rich heritage in Eastern North Carolina. It is a growing congregation with active ministries focusing on the youth, senior citizens, the musical department, and Christian Education activities. Regular worship services are held every Sunday morning at 11:00 a.m. The church has membership in the Old Eastern Missionary Baptist Association.

PASTORAL DUTIES

- Serve as Senior Pastor and preach the Gospel
- Provide insight for spiritual growth of the church and outreach efforts
- Plan and implement Christian education opportunities for the membership
- Serve as an ex-officio member of all church auxiliaries
- Provide leadership to associate ministers affiliated with the church

QUALIFICATIONS

- Must be saved and have a personal relationship with the Lord
 - Must be ordained to preach and be able to serve as an administrator of a local congregation
 - Must possess interpersonal skills that facilitate interaction with church members and various community resources
 - Must possess leadership abilities
 - Must have personal stamina and enthusiasm to encourage the spiritual growth of the congregation
 - Must have at least two years of experience in church leadership in some capacity and some Bible school training
- Resumes will be accepted until the position is filled. To apply, send resume to the attention of Mrs. Vesta Mullins, Chairperson of the Pastoral Search Committee, at the church's address. For more information call Rev. Carolyn

2003 CITY-WIDE WORSHIP SERVICES

(Sunday, March 30th - Friday, April 4th)

All services will be held at the

ELM GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH
1302 US Hwy. 29 Business • Reidsville, NC 27320
Rev. Clarence Johnson, Pastor

• **SUNDAY, MARCH 30, 2003** •

ELDER FELICIA KELLAM
Pastor of Benaja Mount Zion Holiness Church of God
Reidsville, NC

• **MONDAY, MARCH 31, 2003 through FRIDAY, APRIL 4, 2003** •

6:40 PM NIGHTLY

REVEREND DR. LARRY COVINGTON
Pastor of Ebenezer United Church of Christ - Burlington, NC

7:30 PM NIGHTLY

REVEREND DR. J. WENDELL MAPSON
Pastor of Monumental Baptist Church, Philadelphia, PA
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CLASSIFIEDS

Squires, Committee Co-Chairperson at 252-638-4726.
836 Green Street
P.O. Box 12881
New Bern, NC 28560
252-633-2388

Oakey Grove Missionary Baptist Church – Clayton, NC: currently accepting applications for a Pastor with strong Missionary Baptist roots. We are affiliated with the Johnston District Missionary Baptist Association and the General Baptist State Convention. Interested applicants should provide the following:
1. A resume
2. Personal references
Send information to:
Oakey Grove Baptist Church
Pulpit Search Committee
Deacon Loomis Hodges, Chairperson
PO Box 2435
Smithfield, NC 27577

Mount Carmel Missionary Baptist Church – Elizabeth City, NC: currently accepting applications for a Pastor. The church is located in Hertford County. Interested applicants should provide the following:

1. A Resume
2. A copy of religious credentials: License/Ordination
3. Two personal references (no family references)
Send information to:
Mount Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church
Pulpit Committee
P.O. Box 1421
Elizabeth City, 27906-1421

Union Grove Baptist Church, Warrenton, NC: currently accepting applications for a Pastor. Interested applicants should provide the following:
A Resume
Send information to:
Brother Alonza Jones, Board Chairman
Pastor Search Committee
Route 2, Box 128
Norlina, NC 27563

First Missionary Baptist Church Thomasville, NC: currently accepting applications for a Pastor with strong Missionary Baptist roots. We are affiliated with the Johnston District Missionary Baptist Association and the General Baptist State Convention, inter-

ested applicants should provide a . (2) personal resume. Send information to:
Tanya M. Autry, Chairperson
Pastor Search Committee
First Missionary Baptist Church
103 Church Street
Thomasville, NC 27360

Ebenezer Baptist Church – Newburgh, NY: currently accepting applications for Senior Pastor with strong Baptist roots. The Committee will provide each candidate with an application packet.
Send request to:
Ebenezer Baptist Church
ATTN: Deacon Milton
Buxton/Confidential
PO Box 248
Newburgh, NY 12551-0248

Shady Grove Baptist Church – East Spencer, NC: currently accepting applications for a Pastor with strong Missionary Baptist roots. Interested applicants should provide the following:
1. A resume
2. at least four references: (2) business

3. A copy of religious credentials: License/Ordination
Send information to:
Shady Grove Baptist Church
ATTN: Clarence A. Jones, Chairperson
PO Box 447
East Spencer, NC 28039

Eastern Star Missionary Baptist Church – Tarboro, NC: seeking a pastor.
•He must be experienced
•Well seasoned
•He must live by the word of God
•Willing to teach Sunday school and bible study class
•Must be between the age of 25-55
Please submit resume to:
Pulpit Committee
Eastern Star Missionary Baptist Church
Post Office Box 1677
Tarboro, North Carolina 27886

Foster Memorial Baptist Church – Rocky Mount, NC: The Pulpit Search Committee of the Foster Memorial Missionary Baptist Church located in Rocky Mount, North

PULPIT VACANCY NEW LIGHT MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH HALLSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA

NEW LIGHT MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH IS NOW ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR A PASTOR. OUR WORSHIP SERVICES ARE EACH SUNDAY OF THE MONTH.

QUALIFICATIONS:

Must be a licensed ordained Missionary Baptist Minister.

- Full of Holy Ghost. Led by the Spirit of God in all matters.
- Full of wisdom, knowledge and understand the office of Pastor and performs it according to the scriptures and the needs of the church.
- Must be Association minded.
- Prefer having experience as a Pastor.
- The husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behavior.
- One that rules his own house, having a good report.
- Knows the doctrine of a Missionary Baptist Church
- Must attend meetings of different auxiliaries in the church to become familiar with the organizations, whenever possible.
- Must visit the sick and shut-in when possible.
- Must attempt to become involved with the various programs that the church participates in outside the home church calendar.

Send resumes and inquiries to:

Deacon Kenneth Bracey
1025 Red Bug Rd.
Hallsboro, North Carolina 28442
910-646-4467

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Dear Christian Leader and Friends,

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I have built and designed more than 45 churches in my 55 years of general contracting.

Church building should be compatible with their neighborhoods. The quality of construction, design, and landscaping should create a meaningful setting which is an inspiration to its members and the community.

When you consult with me, my first step is a detailed inquiry of the various programs at your church. This enables me to understand the main focus of your ministry and it helps you understand my services. Our first meeting is to get acquainted and find out your needs.

The second step is providing a master plan of your entire church property and renderings or models of the proposed buildings.

The third step is preparing your construction drawings which include:

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I have found that coordinating all of these design phases through one firm avoids costly delays, misunderstanding and mistakes during constructions.

There are many phases in church planning and design which require a specialist in that field. When you start your next building program, I hope you will give me a call.

At Your Service,
Thomas L. Jones

CLASSIFIEDS

Carolina, is accepting resume for the position of pastor. Applicants must possess the following qualifications:

- He must possess good moral and ethical conduct, living by Timothy 3:1-1, Titus 1:7-9 and abstain from study activities and inclinations as those cited in Romans 1:26-27.
- He must have a minimum of three (3) years experience as pastor with demonstrated ability in counseling and supervising all work for the church.
- He must live in the proximity of the church.
- He must be born again, filled with the Holy Spirit and called by God to preach God's word.
- He must possess a strong knowledge of the Missionary Baptist Doctrine, Church Policies, and Practices, and be willing to

abide by them.

- He must have the skills required to work with all age groups, with special emphasis on the youth.
- He must have the skills required for planning and implementing a vision for spiritual, physical and financial growth of the church. — He must be community oriented, and have strong family values.
- He must have a minimum of a high school diploma preferably a degree or courses in seminary training from an accredited college or university.
- He must be willing to attend Sunday School, Prayer Meetings, and teach Bible Study.

Please send resume to:

Foster Memorial Missionary Baptist Church, 1911 South Church Street

Post Office Box 6317

Rocky Mount, NC 2802-6317

C/O The Pulpit Committee

Trustee Hiawatha Knight

MOUNT CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH – Shelby, NC: currently accepting applications for a pastor with strong Missionary Baptist roots. The Church is affiliated with the Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Association, and the General Baptist State Convention of N.C. Interested applicants should provide the following:

Resume (including pastor experiences and educational qualifications)

A copy of religious credentials (license/ordination)

At least three personal references (no family)

Send information to:

Pastor Search Committee

Mount Calvary Baptist Church

P.O. Box 3181

Shelby, N.C. 28151-3181

HOPPERS CHAPEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH – Shelby, NC: now accepting resumes for the position of pastor. Potential candidates must be a born again Christian with strong Baptist roots. Hoppers Chapel is a member of the Ebenezer Baptist Association. All applicants must possess the following qualifications.

- Must be ordained and licensed
- Must have at least 1 yr. Pastoral experience
- Must provide credentials of theological training
- Must be an effective teacher and counselor
- Must possess extensive knowledge of Baptist Doctrine
- Provide a mission statement for the church
- Live in close proximity to the church

The applicant must have the ability to plan and implement a growth strategy for both the spiritual and physical growth of the church.

Send all resumes to:

Hoppers Chapel Missionary Baptist Church

C/O Pulpit Committee

415 West Graham St.

Shelby, N.C. 28150

CHURCH STAFF

MUSICIANS:

BASIC REQUIREMENTS FOR SERVICE:

1. Born-again Christian, Spirit-filled, and divinely gifted in music ministry.
2. Willingness to spiritually align the music ministry with Pastoral vision.
3. Able to play the piano, keyboard and/or organ; able to read music and versatile.
4. Able to prepare choirs for Sunday

GENERAL BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION

Registration and Representation Form

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Reverend Cureton L. Johnson, Pastor

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GBSC ANNUAL SESSION

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RALEIGH, NC 27601-2338

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JACKSONVILLE, FLA. 32209

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904-354-7893 (CHURCH)

(FAX 904-354-5883)

morning worship services and other services.

5. Able to teach, as, well as direct choirs, with humility and love.

6. Able to rehearse with all choirs on schedule, and available for all Sunday services.

7. Able to accompany Pastor and choirs to other services as required (or ensure qualified substitute is available).

8. Able to select appropriate hymns and songs for worship.

ST. JAMES BAPTIST CHURCH - Greensboro, NC: Seeks Minister of Music with the following requirements:

- Born-again Christian, Spirit-filled, divinely gifted in music ministry

- Willingness to spiritually align the music ministry with Pastoral vision

- Ability to play piano, keyboard and/or organ, ability to read music and versatile

- Ability to prepare choirs for Sunday morning worship service and other services

- Ability to teach, as well as direct choirs, with humility and love

- Ability to rehearse with all choirs on schedule, and available for all Sunday services.

- Ability to accompany Pastor and choirs to other services as required (or assure qualified substitute is available)

- Ability to select appropriate hymns and songs for worship

- Has the God given ability to work with diverse groups and personalities.

- Preferably a degree in music

- Must be trustworthy, punctual, and fair in all of service to the congregation

Duties include: Be prepared for worship service and rehearsals; Be on time for worship service and rehearsals; Make sure instruments are in good condition at all times for performances; Have immediate access to "Baptist Hymnals" at all times; Be receptive to spontaneous input of members; Have cordial spirit in presenting rehearsal strategy; Be flexible in

presentation; Be mindful of time; Adjust accordingly; Try to be available for engagements representing St. James outreach ministry; Implement new strategies and methods gradual, so growth can be achieved. All applicants send resume to:

St. James Baptist Church
Attention Rev. King and Music Committee

536 West Florida Street

Greensboro, NC 27406

MINISTER OF MUSIC WANTED
SPRINGFIELD BAPTIST CHURCH

- Stanley, NC:

- A Spirit-filled leader - skilled in the Word

- Child of God

- Faithful and committed to God's program

- The gift to play by ear with or without the accompaniment of other musicians

- Has the ability to read and teach music

- Plays versatile music - which includes hymns, spirituals, contemporary gospel and praise songs

- Available to accompany the pastor and choirs to other churches when and as needed

- Available for all rehearsals and Sunday Worship service

Please contact: Melissa Fanning - (H) 704-563-3230 or Pastor Theodore Armstrong - Church 704-263-4426

MINISTER OF MUSIC NEEDED -

Wake Forest, NC: congregation seeks musician. 1) The duties include working directly with the Pastor in order to assist and cooperate with him in Christian Worship, 2.) Playing during Sunday morning worship service, 3). Rehearsing with various choirs one night per week, 4.) And accompanying the Pastor on engagements to other churches. Please forward a cover letter and resume to:

Evans Grove Missionary Baptist Church

12700 Creedmoor Road

Highway 50

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05. Busted Britches From Straddling The Fence
06. Dangerous Minds
07. Don't Even Think About It
08. Fired Up By The Holy Ghost
09. Are You Full Of The Stuff
10. Let's Get On Board
11. God Picked Me To Be On His Side
12. Grace On The Race
13. Grow Up Or Blow Up
14. Hang In There
15. He Lifted Me Up Out Of The Miry Clay
16. Look Where The Lord Has Brought Me From
17. If My People
18. We Can Do It For A New Day Has Come
19. I Know What Prayer Can Do
20. Put Some Clothes On Child
21. A Right Thing In A Wrong Time
22. The Man Who Had Everything But The Right Thing
23. Soap For The Soul
24. Stay On The Lord's Side
25. If You Take One Step He'll Take Two
26. Stepping In Your Own Mess
27. I Can't Lose With The Stuff I Use
28. You Can't Touch This
29. Warm In A Cold Situation
30. That's The Way He Died But That's Not The End Of The Story
31. What You See Is What You Get
32. What's Faith Got To Do With It
33. You Can't Make It Without God
34. I Just Want To Say... "Thank You Lord"
35. A Heart Like Thine
36. Just A Closer Walk With Thee
37. Give Me A Clean Heart So I Can Serve You
38. What Ever The Problem God Has The Answer
39. Peace - In The Midst Of My Storm
40. I Am On The Right Road, Now!
41. A Good Man In A Bad Situation
42. Good Medicine For A Bad Ailment
43. Stand Up And Testify
44. Bad Boys! What You're Going To Do When He Comes For You
45. Angels Just Keep Watching Over Me
46. Go Ahead! Make My Day
47. A Trip To The Cross
48. Jesus! Jesus! Jesus! He Is Somebody's Preacher

49. On The Day Of Pentecost
50. Jesus Is All That! And A Whole Lot More
51. Muddy Putty In The Potter's Hands
52. When Stress Controls You Jesus Consoles You
53. Black Men And Women, Young And Old, Changing A Generation
54. I Am Black But I Am Somebody
55. Staying Afloat In A Sinking Boat
56. He That Has A Friend Must Show Himself Friendly
57. Victory Is Mine
58. Occupy Till I Come
59. A Man On A Mission / The Borrowed Ax
60. Busy In God's Business
61. That's Just Like Mama
62. He's Alive And I Am Glad About It
63. What The World Needs Now Is Love Sweet Love
64. I Moved From My Old House And My Old Friends
65. I Just Want To Know Why
66. What Do You Do When Life Is Not Fair
67. Why Do Bad Things Happen To Good People
68. What Do You Do When Your Brook Runs Dry
69. Diagnosis From Dr. Jesus, Go And See The Dr.
70. Who Is This Man
71. What Would Jesus Do
72. If I Could But Touch The Hem Of His Garment
73. Come See A Man
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74. Wounded By The Ones You Love
75. How To Stand In The Storms Of Life
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80. Where Are You? Adam
81. Committed Because I Am Submitted
82. Are You A Disciplined Disciple
83. Answering God's Call
84. Too Blessed To Be Stressed
85. Thrilled By His Will
86. These Things Only Come By Prayer And Fasting
87. Just Like Daddy
88. I Got Two Wings And The World Can't Do Me No Harm
89. The Prayer Of Jabez
90. I Will Meet You On The Other Side
91. Can't Come Right Now, I Am On Duty
92. What A Mighty God We Serve
93. When Life Makes You Wonder
94. Fighting The Good Fight

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MINISTER OF MUSIC VACANCY: THE SPRING GREEN MISSION- ARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Warrenton, NC: seeks a Minister of Music to provide musical direction and accompaniment for 4 choirs in the church. This person will work closely with the Pastor to provide spiritual leadership in the ministry of Jesus Christ through music, i.e. hymns, spiritual songs, and praise and worship music that glorifies God.

We are accepting resumes from candidates with the appropriate qualifications. (Specific qualifications listed in beginning of staff musician section.) For additional information please send inquiry or resume to:

Spring Green Missionary Baptist Church
PO Box 924, Warrenton, NC 2589
Rev. Dennis G. Lindsay, Pastor

MUSICIAN NEEDED – Oakboro, NC:

Must be a Christian available to serve every Sunday. Prepare Choirs and Praise Team for Sunday morning worship. Rehearse with choirs on scheduled times. Be available to accompany Pastor and choirs to church functions. Direct congregation in congregational hymns. Must be able to play by ear as well as read music

To apply call:
(704) 532-6813 or E-mail to Galilee, NC@aol.com
Galilee Missionary Baptist Church
PO. Box 644, Oakboro, NC 28129

Richard H. Moore
State Treasurer

Dr. Archie Logan, Jr.
Executive Secretary-Treasurer
General Baptist State Convention

Dear Pastor,

The General Baptist State Convention joins Richard H. Moore, State Treasurer, in encouraging your Association and church to identify your unclaimed property. As your State Treasurer and Executive Secretary Treasurer of the General Baptist State Convention, the two of us serve important roles in North Carolina. It is for this reason we want to make you aware of a program that may benefit both your church and its members.

The North Carolina Department of State Treasurer is responsible for administering the "Escheat and Unclaimed Property Program". The purpose of this program is simple; when a company or financial institution is holding money that belongs to a North Carolina resident and that individual cannot be located, the company is required by law to turn the money over to the Department of State Treasurer, where it is held until the rightful owner claims it. This "unclaimed cash" is often the result of forgotten utility deposits, bank accounts, stocks that were purchased, and checks that have not been cashed. Currently, the North Carolina Department of State Treasurer is holding over \$350 million in unclaimed cash that belongs to 1.4 million people and organizations.

It is important that as much of this money as possible gets returned to the rightful owners. In order to do that, we need your help. We hope that you can assist us in getting the word out about this program by letting your church members know it is there and making them aware of how they can check to see if they may be owed money.

The easiest way to find out if your name is on the Unclaimed Property list is to log onto the North Carolina Department of State Treasurer website at www.treasurer.state.nc.us. You then click on the "Unclaimed Property Program" link to get to a page where you can type in your name. We suggest not only checking your name with the proper spelling, but try variations on the spelling of your name, as well. Sometimes the reason money does not get to an individual is because the company sending it has the wrong address or incorrect spelling of the person's name.

It is also important to know that claiming your money through the Department of State Treasurer is completely free. You should be aware that there are services that DO charge a fee to locate any unclaimed funds that may be owed to you. It is not necessary to use these services or to pay a fee to have your money returned. You can claim your money directly from the Department of State Treasurer at no cost.

We believe sharing information regarding the "Unclaimed Property Program" with your church members is a valuable service. Not only will this information help your members to claim any money that they may be owed, but it will also be helpful to your communities as the word travels to relatives, friends and neighbors of your members. We also suggest you check the name of your church to see if money is owed to it. There are thousands of businesses and organizations that have unclaimed cash, and your church may be one of them.

We appreciate your assistance in helping us to make the citizens of North Carolina aware of this program, and look forward to working with you to return as much money as possible to your church members. The General Baptist Foundation is also available to assist you in locating your money at no cost; simply call the Foundation toll free at 1-866-858-7847 or log on to the General Baptist State Convention's website at www.GBSC.org, then click on the [N.C. Department of State Treasurer](http://www.GBSC.org) link to access the "Unclaimed Property Program".

Sincerely,

Richard H. Moore
State Treasurer

Dr. Archie Logan, Jr.
Executive Secretary-Treasurer,
General Baptist State Convention

CHURCH MUSICIAN VACANCY:

FIRST MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH – Selma, NC: seeks musician for youth choir. Must be a Christian with good character.

Requirements:

- Play the organ and piano
- Able to play sacred and gospel music
- Read music and have the ability to play by ear

Send resume to:

Reverend S. Manfred Isom, Pastor
415 Star Ruby Drive
Knightdale, NC 27545

MINISTER OF MUSIC NEEDED: THE PENN AVENUE MOUNT OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH

Lewiston, NC: seeking a musician for a station church, a Christian, who is responsible, has good character and a good reputation.

Requirements:

- *Plays the organ and piano
- *Able to work with a diverse group of singers
- *Experienced in all sacred music
- *Reads music and is versatile in playing by ear

Send resumes or responses to:

Mount Olive Baptist Church
PO Box 214
Lewiston-Woodville, NC 27849
Attention: William W. Peele, Jr.

MINISTER OF MUSIC WANTED: THE PENN AVENUE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH – Oxford, NC:

currently seeking a Minister of Music. QUALIFICATIONS: (Specific qualifications listed in beginning of staff musician section.)

*Will be responsible with the pastor's approval in hiring other musicians if deemed necessary.

Salary: Negotiable

Sunday worship services. Service begins each Sunday at 11 a.m. with the exception of 5th Sunday services which begin at 10 a.m. Please send resume to the above listed address or inquiries may be made by calling one of the above listed numbers.

CHURCH MUSICIAN NEEDED – Warren County, NC: Knowledge of music and the ability to play by ear is appreciated. Presently, morning worship service is held every fourth (4th) Sunday, but we are considering an additional Sunday for services. Must be able to play for youth choir and adult choir. Church is located in Warren County, North Carolina. For further information, please call:
(252) 257-0221

CHURCH MUSICIAN: THE CEDAR GROVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Gibson, NC: seeking a person to serve as Church Musician. Qualifications: (Specific qualifications listed in beginning of staff musician section.) Salary negotiable. Please send resume to Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Church at this address.

Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Church
14600 Railroad St.
Gibson, NC 28343

CHURCH MUSICIAN: THE FRIENDSHIP MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

High Point, NC: accepting resumes for a Church Musician. Qualifications: (Specific qualifications listed in beginning of staff musician section.) Salary negotiable.

715 West Willis Ave.
High Point, NC 27260

JEFFRIES CROSS BAPTIST CHURCH – Burlington, NC:

Send cover letter and resume to Jeffries Cross Baptist Church, 2015 Jeffries Cross Rd., Burlington, NC 27217. Phone: 336-226-9626. We are currently seeking a musician who will work directly with the pastor to provide spiritual leadership in the music ministry. Qualifications: 1. A Christian with piano, keyboard, organ ability; read music, play chords, teach harmony, direct choirs, conduct two rehearsals per month with four choirs, accompany pastor on engagements, accommodate traditional and contemporary worship styles.

CHURCH MUSICIAN - Hope Mills, NC: Swans Creek Missionary Baptist Church, North Carolina. Qualifications:

- *A Spirit-filled leader - divinely gifted in music ministry
- *Willingness to align the music ministry with Pastoral vision
- *Able to play piano, keyboard; able to read music and play by ear
- *Able to prepare choirs for morning worship service and other services
- *Able to rehearse with all choirs on a regular basis and available for all Sunday services
- *Accompany Pastor and choirs to other services

Please contact or send resume to: 2404 Swans Creek Church Rd., Hope Mills, NC 28348 (910)323-4595

ORANGE GROVE MISSIONARY

CLASSIFIEDS

BAPTIST CHURCH – Durham, NC is currently accepting resumes for the position of Pastor. Orange Grove is a community-based church with a rich heritage. The church will celebrate its one hundred nineteenth anniversary in 2003. Regular worship services are held every Sunday at 8a.m. and 11 a.m. We are affiliated with the East Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Association and the General Baptist State convention. *The successful candidate must have the following minimum qualifications but not limited to:*

- Must be a born again Christian, divinely called, chosen by God, and be licensed/ordained.

- Must be qualified to grow in spirit/character, exemplifying temperance, sensibility, hospitality and gentleness, not being abusive, greedy or arrogant.

- Must be a lover of goodness, upright, self-controlled, and able to hold firm to the sure Word as taught.

- Must be kindly to everyone, teach, and preach the Gospel.

- Must be a novice (new convert), false prophet, a person to boast, not one given to trickery but one who demonstrates true apostleship.

- Must exemplify strong Christian character, live a Christian life (private & public), and have strong, positive family values.

- Must have a minimum of a Bachelor's degree and appropriate verifiable divinity Christian education or training.

- Must be willing to continue to grow in experience to improve skills, effectiveness and to master new, complex and demanding opportunities.

- Must be qualified to grow in grace.

- Must be an ordained minister with a minimum of five (5) years pastoral experience in a Baptist Church.

- Must provide positive spiritual leadership to the administrative staff, the total congregation and church programs.

- Must have leadership experience including supervision, counseling, evaluating and discipline, if necessary.

- Must possess effective oral and written communication skills easily understood by all age groups.

- Must be financially stable.

Persons meeting these qualifications should send their resumes to the Pulpit Selection Committee, Orange Grove Missionary Baptist Church, 505 East End Avenue, Durham, NC 27703. Resumes will be accepted with a postmark no later than April 30, 2003. *Resumes only. No phone calls or emails.*

MINISTER OF MUSIC NEEDED - Henderson, NC: congregation seeking a full-time minister of music, who will be responsible for directing, managing, and developing all functions and aspects associated with planning and implementing a comprehensive Church

Music Ministry. Must be available for all worship services and practices.

Send resumes or responses to:

St. James MBC, P.O. Box 2205, Henderson, NC 27536. Attention: William H. Clayton, II Senior Pastor.

www.gbsc.org

General Baptist State Convention & Auxiliaries

Second Annual

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Monday, May 5, 2003 • 8am

Farmville Golf & Country Club

308 Bynum Dr., Farmville, NC 27828, (252) 753-3660

FORMAT: • Captain's Choice • On-Site Registration • Start Time 8am
• Mulligans are available for purchase at \$5 per Mulligan (up to 2 per person)

This year's field is open to the first 72 people that register!

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Entry fee includes: Green/Cart Fees, Awards Presentation, Lunch and Door Prizes

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Name _____

Address _____

Phone (include area code) _____

Team Members:

1. _____ 2. _____

3. _____ 4. _____

INCLUDE PAYMENT: ☐ Check or Money Order ☐ Credit Card (call GBSC office)

ENTRY DEADLINE IS APRIL 28, 2003

★ Please return registration form along with payment for \$40 per player or \$160 per team, payable to GBSC, Inc. by April 28, 2003 to secure your place!!!

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Dependent's Name	Birth Date	Sex		
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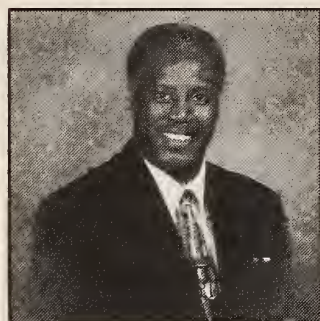
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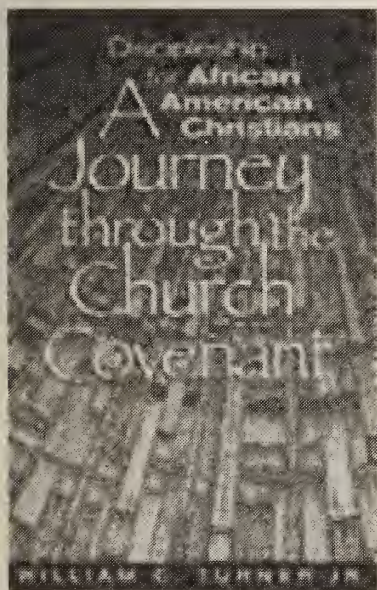
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DISCIPLESHIP FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN CHRISTIANS: A JOURNEY THROUGH THE CHURCH COVENANT

TURNER JR, WILLIAM C. \$12.00

These discipleship studies take one of the most visible documents in black Baptist churches as an occasion to reflect on the meaning of the Christian walk for today's believers. An ideal resource for new church members or for others who want to understand more about the nature of the faith they are proclaiming, this thorough discipleship resource ends each chapter with a summary of key points, as well as questions for reflection intended to help readers understand and apply the lessons

found in the chapter. William Turner uses the Church Covenant, a short statement of faith that many African American Baptists have committed to memory, as a vehicle for teaching the Baptist faith, with special attention paid to how the Covenant is grounded in the person, work, and experience of the Holy Spirit. Each chapter is based on a phrase from the Covenant itself and explores the Scriptural foundations for the phrase and the belief expressed in it. Discipleship for African American Christians is ideal for personal or small-group study, as well as for Christian education and Sunday school settings.

Available at www.judsonpress.com

BAPTIST INFORMER

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BAPTIST INFORMER

Volume 126, No. 5

Publication of the General Baptist State Convention of N.C., Inc.
Voice of 500,000 North Carolina Baptists

May 2003

By Dr. Archie D. Logan, Jr.
Executive Secretary

From the Old Testament, in the Hebrew family, the mother occupied a higher position than that enjoyed by women in many other nations. The mother's duties were primarily domestic, but her family and Hebrew society held her in high regard. The concept of mother was sometimes used in other, more figurative ways. Nations were sometimes thought of as mothers. The prophet Ezekiel used mother as a



Dr. Archie Logan, Jr.

Happy Mother's Day

metaphor for Israel. After being nurtured and cared for by their "mother," the "princes of Israel" brought shame upon her by their idolatrous practices (Ezekiel 19). Jeremiah used the concept of Israel as mother to personify the nation's sin (Jeremiah 50:12-13), while Hosea made it a continuing theme

of his prophecies.

The figurative meaning of "mother" also included ancestry. Eve was the "mother of all living" (Genesis 3:20). God blessed Sarah by declaring, "She shall be a mother of nations" (Genesis 17:16). The love and nurturing of God

M - O - T - H - E - R

"M" is for the million things she gave me,
"O" means only that she's growing old,
"T" is for the tears she shed to save me,
"H" is for heart of purest gold;
"E" is for her eyes, with love-light shining,
"R" means right, and right she'll always be,
Put them all together, they spell "Mother,"
A word that means the world to me.

— Howard Johnson (c. 1915)

is sometimes compared to the love and

caring a mother gives to a newborn child. Paul referred to new Christians as "babes in Christ" (1 Corinthians 3:1), implying a connection to Jesus and God as mother as well as father (1 Thessalonians 2:7).

I am honored to give this tribute to mothers everywhere. My own mother, Margaret Enshel Roberson Logan, passed in 1982. Since that time I have continued to thank God for her life, love and Christian legacy. The month of May is a joyful time for motherhood! We need to take time out of our lives to give respect to women and mothers. On Sunday, May 11, 2003, many churches will have special Mother's Day services. If you are unsaved the best gift you could give your mother is to join the church, become a disciple of Jesus Christ, and work for Kingdom Building.

Quest for quick cash becomes a snare for many: Payday lending reform movement underway

By Keith B. Corbett
Peace Missionary Baptist Church

On reaching Jerusalem, Jesus entered the temple area and began driving out those who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves.



Deacon Keith B. Corbett

has reached epidemic proportions. One of the fastest growing financial abuses is Payday Lending (legalized "loan shark-

ing"). Payday loans (sometimes called cash advances) are marketed to vulnerable people as an easy way to get cash for a short-term emergency. But they are actually powerful tools for locking people into spiraling debt and huge financial loss.

Payday Lending is the practice of using a post-dated check as collateral for a two-week loan. This industry is huge – more than \$100 million in fees were collected by payday lenders in both 2000 and 2001 in North Carolina. More than 1,000 payday shops – usually in our neighborhoods – promise quick cash. These lenders charge fees of at least \$15.00 to \$30.00 per \$100.00 lent for each 30-day period, or an Annual Percentage Rate (APR) of around 400%. A \$300 credit card charge with an 18% APR yields a fee of only \$4.50 over a 30-day period. It is clear that Payday

Lending's triple digit interest rates are eroding African-American wealth.

If that's not bad enough, most payday customers cannot repay their loan in full after only two weeks, and must extend or "roll over" their loan – paying another fee but not getting any more money. So, the borrower is caught in a "debt trap" in which they continually pay fees and remain in debt to the lender for the full amount borrowed (see "Debt Trap" graphic).

If your parishioners are paying 400% interest rates, it is virtually impossible for them to tithe their 10%.

The Coalition for Responsible Lending is seeking stories from individuals who have fallen victim to the Payday Lending debt trap. Please contact the Center for Responsible Lending at 919-956-4485 to:

•Share a personal story

•Join our campaign for payday reform

•Get a copy of our payday video (to educate the public about the pitfalls of payday lending)

•Come speak to your church or community group.

You can obtain further information at www.responsiblelending.org.

Payday lending traps borrowers in a cycle of debt. While payday loan rollovers were illegal under former NC law, lenders use back-to-back transactions to accomplish an effective rollover at the same high cost to borrowers. Borrowers who cannot repay their entire \$300 loan in two weeks pay \$45 in fees every two weeks to 'renew' the loan. These high renewal fees make it less likely that the borrower will have the funds to repay the

See QUEST, Page 2

1867-2003 • 1867-2003
OUR 136TH YEAR

The work and ministry of the General Baptist State Convention

By Dr. Charles T. Bullock

The ministry of the General Baptist State Convention is conditioned largely by the churches that give support to the ongoing work and ministry of the convention. The convention cannot exist without the local church. A church is an institution designed to minister to human needs. When a church unites with other churches to engage in ministry, more can be done to minister to human needs and to enhance Christian fellowship among believers in cooperation with other bodies characterized by like-minded service of people seeking the general good of humanity in the name of



Dr. Charles Bullock

Christ. Therefore, our convention exists; because of the Baptist churches, Associations, Unions and other bodies to enhance Christ mission of administering to the needs of humanity.

According to Article III of the constitution, the ministry of the convention shall be implemented through Boards, Committees, Departments, Commissions, Auxiliary Bodies and Districts. I am grateful for those who have agreed and are committed to serving on committees and boards and the general membership who supports the convention with your attendance, finances and are actively involved in the life of the convention.

The work and ministry that the convention engages in, call for the cooperation and financial support and interlinkages of all of its member churches. The more there are of such interlinkages, greater is the ministry of the convention.

The various components of our convention are at work administering to human needs and are concerned about

issues that affect humanity. There are educational issues, housing issues, penal institution issues, health issues, evangelism and spiritual issues, to name a few. Those who are serving on these committees are at work planning for and administering to human needs. "And the king shall answer and say unto them, inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me" (Matt. 25:40). In state mission, there are those being taught by Christian education study courses, institutes, workshops, and at the sessions of the Congress of Christian Education. Souls are being administered to through evangelism. The Housing Ministry responds to the need for housing. Institutional and Specialized Ministries are administering to those housed in penal institutions. The Health and Human Service Committee are addressing by various Health initiatives. Additionally we are responding to Christ's command to be witness locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally through our mission sup-

ported objectives.

I believe that as churches work together under the banner of the General Baptist State Convention, we can help to make the whole of North Carolina a Christian Community. In order for this to be done, our hope would be in linking human effort with divine power. The connection is made through prayer. Jesus made this clear. To His disciples He said "He who believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I go to the Father." Then he added this promise: "Whatever you ask in my name, I will do it, that the Father may be glorified in the Son" (John 14:12-13). The claiming of this promise is the surest guarantee of success. Paul states the heart of the matter when he says, "For we are fellow workers for God" (1 Cor. 3:9).

Let us work in unity to effectively accomplish Christ's mission in "Serving the Present Age."

UPCOMING SESSIONS

- ♦ **May 5-7, 2003** **136th Mid-Year Annual Session**
Sycamore Hill Baptist Church, Greenville, NC
Host Pastor: Dr. Howard Parker, 252-756-4898
- ♦ **May 17, 2003** **Laymen's Mini-Skills Exhibit**
JJ Johnson Baptist Assembly, Laurel Hill, NC, 910-462-3440
Mr. John Gladden, laymen's President
- ♦ **July 17-19, 2003** **GBSC Unity Session**
Second Calvary Baptist Church, 114 Nelson Ave., Charlotte, NC, 704-398-0147
- ♦ **October 26-30, 2003** **GBSC Annual Session**
Ebenezer Baptist Church, 2020 W. Sugar Creek Rd., Charlotte, NC
Host Pastor: Leonzo Lynch, 704-598-2219

THE BAPTIST INFORMER

Publication of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc.
Voice of 500,000 Baptists
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Dr. Archie D. Logan Jr., Executive Editor

Dr. Priscilla A. Brodie, Executive Editor

Ms. Carol J. Smith, Managing Editor

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THEME: "By the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness..." (II Corinthians 6:7)

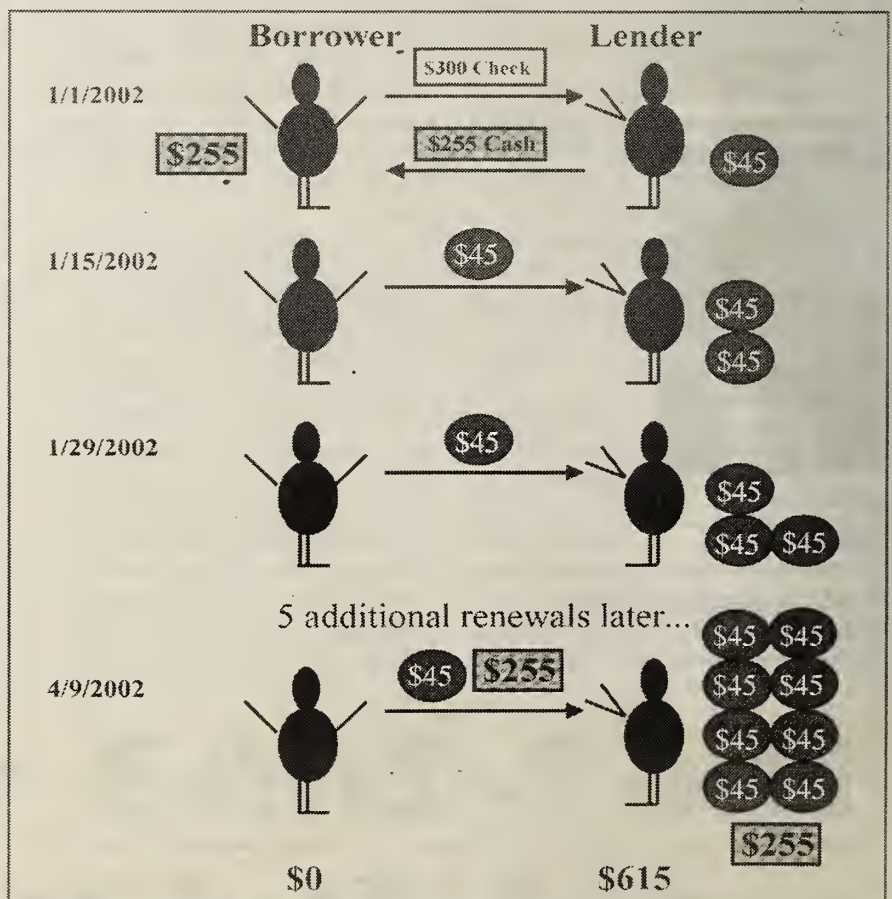
QUEST, Cont'd From Page 1

\$300 loan. Borrowers continue to pay fees and still owe the \$300. This is the debt cycle.

Example borrower: The average NC borrower takes out 8 payday loans from a single payday lender. In the example below, the borrower spends 14 weeks in the debt cycle (original loan plus 7 renewals). Receiving only \$255 cash, the borrower must repay \$615 to

close out the loan (\$360 in fees plus the original \$255 cash received).

Fees paid often exceed the amount of cash received by a borrower. When a borrower does six repeat loans they have paid more in fees than they received in cash. This cycle of debt can go on for years, with the borrower paying \$45 every two weeks without receiving 'new money.' (See chart below)



Mother knows

By Executive Secretary-Treasurer Brodie

During this month do we pause to recognize motherhood and its significance to a



Dr. Priscilla Brodie

people. Most of us agree that mothers in general have a capacity to know and give advice to their own children and others as well. Included in this article are reflections of staff and another person relating to the wisdom/advice of moth-

ers. One of the persons contacted stated that children should adhere to their mothers' advice, because a mother who is living in God's will provides advice that she knows would be in God's favor and would never want to steer her child down the wrong or incorrect path. A mother's advice can be so meaningful to a child and provide that security which we all need. Mothers will take their children to God in prayer and ask for counseling from the Lord. They know that anything we are unsure of He will provide the answer. These are reasons that children should adhere to the advice that mothers give because they give great advice because they have prayed to the right person. Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Another said that we give some motherly advice to our children and others as well. We mothers are natural nurturers and protectors of our children. We willingly give advice, opinion, and wisdom as a result of our love and understanding of our children's growth. We as parents want to see our children grow and develop into special young men and women. The advice and wisdom that we give are true statements of our desires to see our children be successful in everything. Sometimes our children do not always accept our advice, but if we do not say it, they cannot know what we think.

Still another related that I always heard that small children are on their mother's knee and older children are on their mother's heart. Being reared in a home with a praying mother, I was given good and solid advice. It seemed that my mother could see trouble even before it caused me heartache and pain. Though I did not always receive her advice, she was still always there for me. She taught me at an early age that prayer is important and that there is no problem too big for God. I have three children, and like my mother I know when they are troubled. I taught them the same thing I was taught by my mother that prayer is important and that there is no problem too big for God. I always encouraged my children by quoting one of my favorite scriptures: "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" -Philippians 4:13.

Yet another person wrote that our mother's advice is not always heard. Many

times we turn a deaf ear when we realize that our mother is giving some type of opinion. Then we wonder why we did not listen when she told us that a certain thing was going to happen. Many of us may think our mothers do not know much, but they know a lot more than we think. Some of us do not understand that they have traveled down the same roads that we are traveling. Usually the advice our mothers give is very wise.

From several individuals, adults and a youth have we heard about a mother's advice. Yet let us consider a word from God's word. Mary, the mother of Jesus, had unique experience in becoming His mother and pondered many a thing in her heart. On one occasion she and Jesus were attending a wedding in Cana, and the wine gave out. Knowing her son well, she indirectly instructed Him by telling others to adhere to His direction. She said to the servers: "What He says do it." What a wonderful advice she gave to others to help them in a time of need. How better off would we be if we listened to this mother's advice of following Jesus' instructions! The Word of Christ is our life.

Mother Knows

No-bod-y knows of the work it makes,
To keep the home to-geth-er,
No-bod-y knows of the steps it takes,
No-bod-y knows but moth-er,
No-bod-y lis-tens to child-ish woes,
Which kiss-es on-ly smoth-er,
No-bod-y's pained by the might-y blow,
No-bod-y -on-ly moth-er,
No-bod-y knows of the sleep-less care,
Be-stowed on ba-by broth-er,
No-bod-y knows of the ten-der prayer,
No-bod-y knows but moth-er,
No-bod-y knows of the les-sons taught,
Of lov-ing one an-oth-er,
No-bod-y knows of the patience sought,
No-bod-y - on-ly moth-er.
No-bod-y knows of the anx-ious fears
Lest dar-lings may not weath-er,
Storms of this life in the com-ing years, No-
bod-y knows but moth-er
No-bod-y knows of the tears that start,
The grief she'll glad-ly smoth-er,
No-bod-y knows of breaking heart,
No-bod-y - only moth-er.
No-bod-y clings to the wayward child,
The scorned by ev-ery oth-er,
Leads it so gen-tly from ways wild,
No-bod-y can but moth-er,
No-bod-y knows of the hourly prayer
For Him, our err-ing broth-er,
Pride of the heart, once so pure and fair.
No-bod-y - on-ly moth-er.

Anonymous

*Thanks be to God for mothers of faith,
hope, love, and knowledge/wisdom!
Happy Mother's Day!*

REMINDERS

1. **Scholarship Program** - Young Adults or youth applying for scholarships should apply on or before May 31, 2003. (See information on page 5).

2. **The Nehemiah Prayer Chain** - Churches (circles), city/county unions, women auxiliaries, district conferences are urged to participate in this prayer chain for the Woman's Convention. If those mentioned or individuals desire to volunteer for this prayer ministry, please complete the form and return to the Office within seven (7) days (See the form regarding this ministry).

3. **The Leadership Training Conference** will convene the week of June 2-6, 2003 at the Baptist Assembly, Laurel Hill. The fee is \$175.00 per person. Please send to the office for forms and return by May 12, 2003.

4. **The Youth Bible Camp** will be held June 8-13, 2003 (Week 1); June 15-22, 2003 (Week 2); June 22-27, 2003 (Week 3). the fee for the regular camper is \$200.00 and for the day camper is \$140.00. Campers are received on a first-come basis. The fee or a non-refundable deposit of \$20.00 must be sent along with the completed registration form, health form, and parental or guardian statement form. Please contact the office for forms.

5. **Self-Denial Envelopes** can be secured from the office. Funds should be sent to the office prior to this year's Annual Session.

6. **The 119th Annual Session Pre-Convention Banquet tickets** may be secured from the office now. Tickets in advance are \$35.00 and at the door \$36.00. Please send your ticket request along with funds to the office.

7. **Housing Reservations Forms** for the 119th Annual Session are now available from the office. Please complete the form and send it directly to the host hotel, Adam's Mark, Winston-Salem. The Annual Session Assembly will meet July 27th-July 31st, 2003 at the Benton Convention Center, Winston-Salem.

8. **The Young Adult Retreat** will meet at Huntsville Baptist Church, Oxford, Reverend Ralph Holloway, pastor on June 7, 2003. Pre-registration will be \$20.00 per person, on-site \$21.00 per person. Pre-registration will be \$35.00 per couple (husband & wife), \$36.00, on-site. Please secure a form from the office and return by the given date. (See form and directions).

9. **Missions Prayer Day** is June 21st, 2003. Please send to the office: Woman's Baptist State Convention, P.O. Box 1818, Raleigh, NC 27602 for the free prayer materials.

10. **Budget:** The 2002-2003 Budget is in the amount of \$806,055.00: Foreign Missions \$80,200.00, State Missions \$565,855.00, Shaw University \$49,500.00, Shaw Divinity School \$33,500.00, Central Children Home \$36,500.00 and Baptist Assembly \$40,500.00. Checks & money orders should be made payable to the Woman's Baptist State Convention and sent to Woman's Baptist State Convention, P.O. Box 1818, Raleigh, NC 27602.

Please be reminded that the Woman's Convention Funds are not a part of the unified plan.

Woman's Baptist Home & Foreign Missionary Convention of North Carolina

Young Adult RETREAT

Huntsville Baptist Church • 6160 Hwy. 96 N. • Oxford, NC 27565

Serving the Present Age: Transforming the Family Through Christian Values/Ethics: "Getting Back to the Basics"

**Friday, June 6, 2003 (7:30pm-9pm)
and Saturday, June 7, 2003 (8am-2pm)**

Directions to Oxford, North Carolina

Traveling from the South (Raleigh, Durham, Wilmington, etc.) or Traveling from the North (Henderson, Weldon, etc.), take Interstate I-85 to Exit 204.

Traveling from the North to Best Western Inn & Suites, at the end of Exit 204, turn left. Best Western is on the immediate right (1000 Linden Ave., (919) 692-1000). Traveling from the South, at the end of Exit 204, turn right. Best Western is on the immediate right. The cost is approximately \$70 + tax (King/Double).

Traveling from the North to Regency Inn, at the end of Exit 204, turn right. The Regency Inn is on your immediate right, 913 Linden Ave., (919) 693-9151. Traveling from the South, at the end of Exit 204, turn left and Regency Inn is on your right. The cost is approximately \$45 + tax (King/Double).

To Huntsville Baptist Church, 6160 Hwy. 96 N., Oxford, NC (919) 693-7008: Traveling from the South, at the end of Exit 204, turn left. Traveling from the North, at the end of Exit 204, turn right.

Travel North on Linden Avenue until it turns into Broad Street (several blocks). You will see a National Guard Armory on the right and a Auto Zone on the left. After passing the Auto Zone, continue through next traffic light. You will see a car wash on the left. Continue through the next traffic light, you will see a gas station and church on the right. Travel on Broad Street until you come to a stop sign. Make a left on to Alexander Avenue. Travel until you come to another stop sign, make a right on Goshen Street. Travel Goshen Street until you go through the second traffic light. You are now on Hwy. 96 N. Travel approximately 2 miles, the Church is on the right.

Please mail in registration and fee by May 23, 2003 to: Woman's Baptist State Convention, P.O. Box 1818, Raleigh, NC 27602

Woman's Baptist Home & Foreign Missionary Convention Holds 33rd Annual Leaders' Workshop

The 33rd Annual Statewide Leaders' Workshop of the Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention of N.C. met Saturday, April 5, 2003 at 9 a.m. in the Raleigh Convention Center. The motto is "Christ in Every Home".

The Worship and Praise moments were led by Mrs. Cleo Bowden. The opening hymn was "He Lives". The scripture, Matthew 27:37-40 and John 14:15, was read by Rev. Brenda Goss. Prayer was by Rev. Sandra Powell.

The theme discussion was led by Rev. Evangelist Delores Threadgill. "It is our job to let others see Jesus in us. We are a light set upon a hill. Teach your children to respect themselves. Be not transformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your spirit."

The hymn "Lift Him Up" was sung. Greetings were by President Mrs. Julius McDonald. The audience sang "It's a Highway to Heaven". Perspectives were by Dr. Priscilla A. Brodie, Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Woman's Home and Foreign Missionary

Convention, who brought us up to date on all of the activities and the Financial Progress report. She closed by singing "Victory Today is Mine".

Mrs. Eva Geer asked for our support in the Senior Care Program. The GBSC and Senior Care are working together to identify resource funds to assist seniors. Music was by the choir singing "We Worship You".

Dr. Eva Johnson was the moderator for the Workshop Session. Her scripture was Phillipians 4:8, "Think on These Things". The subject of the workshop was "Serving the Present Age - Transforming Christian Leaders Through Christian Values/Ethics". There are many categories in Christian Ethics: Moral Laws - sex, authority, religion and obligations to others; Social Values - land, work, family; Self Fulfillment - the right thing to do in the regular routine. The Bible is the role model.

Why is Christian Ethics important?
1) It is a profile of God's image transformed in us; 2) reflection of character; 3)

spiritual power to transform many things - complaining members into a happy united fellowship, doubts and fears into everlasting peace. She asked everyone to read the ABCs of Life written in the program.

Character and Conduct was by Mrs. Vivian Cherry. Christian character should be filled with compassion, commitment, dedication, and faith. We should have love for Christ and work with enthusiasm and humility. We should read His word and pray for wisdom, knowledge and guidance. She referred to Nehemiah 1:7 and Nehemiah 3.

We should respect a leader who is aggressive and dedicated. The wall was built in 52 days. People who work together can get much done. All kinds of people were involved in building the wall, working to get the job done. No matter what job there is to be done, some will shun their duty. If we do not share in the work, we should not share in the victory. Are we sitting up higher, or are we servants? We have the message of eternal life. We must serve Him. Are we working to prepare the wall? If every member

of my church was like me, how would the church be? What does God want us to do? We must be willing to serve as models. To become an effective leader, we must let our life shine as a beacon. "In all thy ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct thy path."

Mrs. Mary Sharpe spoke on "Spiritual and Christian Leaders". What do you see? What do I see? The answer is leaders who need to be transformed spiritually. We need those who are filled with the spirit and dedicated. She referred to Ephesians 4:11-12, to prepare God's people to fill up the body of Christ and come together as leaders as one vessel. If the world is to hear God's Word, we need leaders who know where they are going and be confident. Jesus is our example, why don't we follow Him? He is our leader. When crisis comes, God picks His leader to accomplish what is right. Don't waste time arguing on unimportant things. Be at peace with yourself and others. Put your trust in God. Focus on heavenly things - God, our church, homes and mission.

Mrs. Elizabeth Marrow spoke on "Conventional Structure At Work". If you have the commitment as Nehemiah,

See WORKSHOP, Page 5

Woman's Baptist Home & Foreign Missionary Convention of North Carolina

Young Adult RETREAT

Huntsville Baptist Church • 6160 Hwy. 96 N. • Oxford, North Carolina 27565

Serving the Present Age: Transforming the Family Through Christian Values/Ethics: Getting Back to the Basics

Friday, June 6, 2003 (7:30pm - 9pm) and Saturday, June 7, 2003 (8:00am - 2:00pm)

PLEASE PRE-REGISTER BEFORE THE DEADLINE: MAY 23, 2003

Advance Donation: _____ \$20 per person _____ \$35 per couple (Husband & Wife)
On Site Donation: _____ \$21 per person _____ \$36 per couple (Husband & Wife)
AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____ (Lunch and snacks will be provided)

YOUR NAME _____ Date _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIPCODE _____

CHURCH _____ PASTOR _____

YOUR PHONE () _____ E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

Young Adult _____ Young Adult Director/Associate _____ Senior _____

My Child(ren) will attend the Youth Class: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Name of Child(ren) _____ Age(s) _____

✓ I shall not hold the Woman's Convention or GBSC liable for any injury which occurs to my child(ren) during the Young Adult Retreat. (Lunch will be provided for the children.)

Signature _____ Date _____

Please mail form along with money by May 23, 2003 to:

WOMAN'S BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION • P.O. BOX 1818 • RALEIGH, NC 27602

The Nehemiah Prayer Chain

of the
Woman's Baptist Home &
Foreign Missionary Convention
North Carolina, Auxiliary to GBSC



Enlistment Form

The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord; but the prayer of the upright is his delight. (Proverbs 15:8)

Confess your faults to one another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. (James 5:16)

Name _____

(Organization or Individual)

Mailing Address _____

Telephone Number _____

E-Mail _____

District _____ Group _____

Department _____
(Senior, Young, Adult, or Youth)

Chairperson - Mr. Robbie Diggs Co-Chairperson - Mrs. Colene Stanley

(Please return to the Office within seven (7) days)
Woman's State Baptist Convention

WORKSHOP, Cont'd From Page 4

you can turn things around. She referred to the Missionary Guide and Handbook whose purpose is to reach men, women and youth through witnessing. She asked that we read pages 1-3, 11-15, 18 and 23. We are to lift up Christ in our church,

community and state. Let our Christian Ethics and Morals transform our world. Do greater things in support of the Mission for Christ.

Inspirational singing was led by Mrs. Greene. A question and answer period was led by Mrs. Audrey Battle.

Recognition of Board Retirees was by the

President. Offertory appeal and prayer was by Mrs. Evelyn McLean. The offertory music was "Our God is an Awesome God" and "I Love to Praise Him".

Departmental Highlights were by Miss Vanessa Gregory and Mrs. Ellender Ley May. They had a very spirited session. They had 200 newcomers and over 1,000 young people in attendance aged 1-20.

Presentation of the minister was Rev. Gary Wilson. The choir sang "Everyday Is A Day of Thanksgiving". The message was by Rev. Dorwin L. Howard, Sr., Pastor, New Mount Zion Baptist Church, Roxboro, NC.

Rev. Dorwin's sermon title was "Totally Committed to Jesus Christ". The text was Mark 14:3 and John 12:3.

Bethany was a small village filled with sick people, a house of misery and poverty. It was also the home of Mary and Martha, who were friends of Jesus. Jesus was in the house of Simon the leper. A woman anoints Jesus with expensive perfume. Is this Mary who is true for her personality, a lesson of dedication to Christ - totally committed to the Lord?

We should spend more time in worship. Mary teaches three things. 1) Give our best to Jesus. When Mary poured out the ointment she gave Jesus her best. She had to work for a year to purchase it. It was in an expensive beautiful box. She broke the box. What's the quality of what you give Jesus? Did you give Him your best or second best or what was left over? Are you totally committed? What is the quality of your giving? Do you just give a little offering? Mary gave God her best. Sometime God has to break the box to get the best out of us. God breaks us financially to get the best offering, and physi-

cally to get the best service in order for us to study His Word and spend time in prayer. Whatever He does for you is to get you to serve Him. 2) Give all that you have to Jesus. Mary held nothing back from Him; she gave Jesus all. Are you giving God all that you have, or are you holding something back? Do you serve God with everything you have and not just when it is convenient? 3) God wants our best - all that we have.

John tells that Mary put the oil on Jesus' feet and wiped His feet with her hair. She had learned the lesson well and totally gave herself to Him. John 3:16 - God gave us His best, His all. He gave Himself. In Him was life, the life that has saved us.

When you totally give your life to Jesus, you will bless others around you. Everybody was blessed by Mary, because they could smell the sweet fragrance. The people who didn't care about Jesus got blessed that day. You will be criticized when you give your best. It was not the Pharisees and Scribes that criticized Mary - it was the church folk - the ones who were closest to Jesus. They did it in the name of doing good missionary work - the perfume should have been sold and the money given to the poor. When you give of yourself, don't be surprised if you are criticized. Don't worry about those who want to run you down, don't do any good, and don't want to see you do any good.

Jesus said Mary's story would be told far and wide for her commitment to Jesus Christ. Rev. Dorwin quoted the hymn "Well Done".

The benediction was by Rev. Howard.



Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention of North Carolina

Auxiliary to the General Baptist State Convention, Inc.

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

"Study to show thyself approved unto God..." II Timothy 2:15

WOMAN'S BAPTIST HOME AND FOREIGN MISSIONARY CONVENTION SCHOLARSHIPS Purpose?

The Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention Scholarships, established in 1994, provide annual scholarships to a Youth and a Young Adult to encourage, support, and enhance post high school training and career success.

Amount of Scholarships?

A \$500 non-renewable scholarship will be awarded to a Youth and a \$500 non-renewable scholarship will be awarded to a Young Adult.

Who May Apply?

Youth - a high school graduating senior, or equivalent.

Young Adult - enrolled in a technical school, college, or university.

Criteria?

The applicant must be:

- an active member of a missionary Baptist church that supports the Woman's Convention.
- a well-disciplined academically and socially, an active member of the local missionary department (as a youth)
- endorsed by his/her pastor
- selected by the State Scholarship Selection Committee

Where to Secure and Send Applications?

Applications may be obtained from and sent to the Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention Office.

What are the Timelines?

Applications must be received by the Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Woman's Convention on or before May 31.

Notification to award recipients will be on or before July 30. Awards will be made during the Annual Session of the convention in July.

How Will Scholarship Funds Be Processed?

Scholarship recipients will provide the Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Woman's Convention official notification from the institution to which funds are to be sent.

All funds will be sent directly from the Convention to the school, college or university.

Other Financial Assistance Opportunities

Cora Pair Thomas - The Cora Pair Thomas Scholarship Fund is to be used to assist needy Liberian students first, and any needy foreign African student attending Shaw University second. Any unused funds will be sent to the superintendent of our school in Liberia at the end of the year.

Ministers' Wives - Funds received through the Ministers' Wives Fellowship will be used to provide assistance to students in Shaw Divinity School.

Ellen S. Alston Memorial Fund (ESAMF) - The "Reserve Fund", established in 1977, will be used as an Emergency School Aid Fund for any Shaw student. The need for the funds is to be determined and executed jointly by the President and Executive Secretary-Treasurer, (ESAMF) - one half of the annual board self-denial).

Shaw University or Shaw Divinity School Scholarship - A scholarship may be awarded to a student enrolled in Shaw University or Shaw Divinity School. The amount may not exceed \$200 per semester and will be limited to two semesters. All checks for these funds are to be made payable to Shaw.

Mail your application to:

The Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention
P.O. Box 1818
Raleigh, NC 27601

or deliver application to:

601 S. Wilmington St.
Raleigh, NC 27601
Telephone 919-833-4823

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Boys and girls ages 5 - 19 are eligible.

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North Carolina Wesleyan College in Rocky Mount, NC.
The date is June 29 - July 3.

There is also a day camp in Charlotte, N.C.
at St. Ann's Catholic School - June 16 - 20

Included on the Camp Staff are:

Dahntay Jones (Duke) and Josh Howard (Wake Forest) and Kris Lang (Pro)

For a free brochure call (704) 377-6387 anytime!

Youth Conference 2003 Instructions

Submitted By Mrs. Diane Newell,
President Congress of Christian Education
CHAPERONES

In addition to rules that you have established at your church for delegates, we are adding to them as it pertains to the Chaperones and Youth.

Chaperones are responsible for every child, youth and teenager that they bring to the conference. If bring a male or males, you must have an Adult Male Chaperone to reside in the dormitory with your youth or make arrangements with another adult male that is billeted in the dormitory.

If you bring a female or females, you must have an Adult female Chaperone to reside in the dormitory or make arrangements with another adult male that is billeted in the dormitory.

Curfew hours are established at each Conference. Please adhere to these hours.

Youth must be supervised at all times. KNOW WHERE THEY ARE

❖ Males *are not* allowed on the female floors or in their rooms.

❖ Females *are not* allowed on the male floors or in their rooms.

Chaperones are to use their own discretion on matters that are not covered.

Responsibilities for Chaperones include but are not limited to:

- Knowing at all times where your Youth are
- Ensuring that curfew hours and times are met
- Ensuring that young people keep up with keys and meal passes
- Ensuring that they are properly dressed. Even though this is a youth conference, it is still governed by the Christian society. It is important that the youth refrain from wearing clothing that is inappropriate or not in good taste.
- Ensuring that young people are where they are supposed to be throughout the conference
- Ensure that youth are respectful of all adults and that we as adults reciprocate.
- Visiting between the males and females will only be allowed in the common areas (i.e. TV Lounge)

• Ensuring that youth are not in areas that are not part of our conference, unless permission has been given by the Dean of Student Affairs.

• Any disputes between young people will be handled by the Chaperones and the youth involved.

Please be mindful of everyone that is in the dormitory. It is important that we keep everyone safe and free from harm in a safe environment.

• It is not the duty of the Director nor Assistant Director to chaperone and keep track of your young people.

• The General Baptist State Convention will not be held liable for acts caused by unsupervised youth

2003 Calendar

May 6, 2003

Education Advocacy Report, Mid-Year Session
General Baptist State Convention
Host: Dr. Howard Parker, Pastor
Sycamore Hill Baptist, Greenville, NC

June 16-20, 2003

National Baptist Congress of Christian Education
Detroit, Michigan

June 25-28, 2003

Youth Oratorical Conference
Shaw University, Raleigh, NC (Tentative)
Host: Dr. Paul Anderson, Moderator, Wake Association

July 17-19 2003

130th Annual Session / Trinity Convention
Host: Second Calvary Baptist Church
114 Nelson Avenue, Charlotte, NC 28216

GBSC Is Available To Work With Churches

By Dr. Archie D. Logan Jr.

Greetings! The General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina is available to work with your church during the time you do not have a Pastor. We will work with the Deacons and other officers to provide guidance as you search for a new pastor to lead your church.

Some of the things we offer:

- We have ordained Baptist ministers available to assist the Deacons in carrying out the Church Ordinances: Lord Supper and Baptism.
- We have ordained clergy who can serve as an "Interim Minister" in your church.
- Some suggested workshops:

- ✓ How To Select An Interim Pastor?
- ✓ How To Call A Pastor?
- ✓ How Much Should We Pay Our Pastor?
- ✓ Church Administration
- ✓ How To Plan A Church Budget
- ✓ Effective Bible Study
- ✓ Evangelism Classes
- ✓ Special Training For Deacons/Trustees
- ✓ Christian Education Planning
- ✓ Church Development

Please call if you are interested in any of these services!
1-800-639-GBSC (4272)

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Give a keynote address on vital economic interest in the African American Community?
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ANGER MANAGEMENT • STRESS MANAGEMENT FOR WOMEN
AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY • MANAGING DIVERSITY IN THE WORKPLACE

President: Dr. James P. Wooten - Professor, Toastmaster, Keynote Speaker

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Oratorical Contest 2003

1. Applicants are to complete application with all of the required information. Applications not completely filled out will not be accepted.

2. Please ensure that all REQUIRED signatures are on the form.

3. Completed applications: THE DEADLINE DATE IS JUNE 21, 2003. APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED ON SITE!

4. Any applications received after this date will not be accepted. It is not our intention to make this an issue; however, it is not fair to Associations who submitted their paperwork on time.

5. PLEASE DO NOT MAIL APPLICATIONS AND SPEECHES TO THE GBSC HEADQUARTERS BUILDING. MAIL THEM TO THE ADDRESS INDICATED ON THE FORM. It is YOUR responsibility to follow-up with me to verify that I did receive your application and speech by the required deadline!

6. Any problems that you encounter, any questions that you may have, please feel free to make contact with one of the persons listed below. *We can't help you unless we know you need help. We will do our best to assist you in any way that we can!*

Oratorical Director
Assistant Oratorical Director
Alberta H. Moore
Constance G. Finch
(910) 424-8430 (office)
(919) 834-7108 (home)
(910) 424-2104 (fax)
(919) 834-7106 (fax)
email: amoore@lewischapel.org
email: mcnair97@bellsouth.net
MOALH@AOL.COM

7. IT IS A REQUIREMENT THAT WE HAVE A COPY OF THE CONTESTANT'S SPEECH PRIOR TO THE CONTESTANT SPEAKING.

8. Please help us help you!!!

2003 ORATORICAL TOPICS

Preparatory Division - 6th, 7th, 8th grade as of July 1, 2003

1. Wait God! I Didn't Mean It
2. What If?
3. Persistence Pays
4. Right from Wrong
5. But My Friends Do It!
6. The Courage to say no
7. God Is Good
8. Keep Your Eyes on the Prize
9. Be Careful What You Say
10. Letting My Little Light Shine

Junior Division - 9th, 10th, 11th grade of July 1, 2003

1. Truth Makes a Difference
2. It's What's Inside That Counts
3. The Question Is...
4. The Lord Is My Rock

5. Faith
6. A Good Friend Is...
7. Wait for the Lord
8. No Greater Love
9. Is He Yours?
10. Its a Real Good Thang!

Senior Division - Rising High School Seniors as of July 1, 2003

1. My Help Comes From The Lord
2. The Stoplights of Life
3. Risky Business
4. What color is Love?
5. Building on a Solid Foundation
6. God Holds The Future
7. Lift Up Jesus
8. Whose World Is It Anyway?

9. There Is Hope
10. It's Gonna Be A Brighter Day
11. When Friends and Faith Disagree

At no time will a contestant or judge discuss the contestant's scores. The results of a judge's decision will be kept confidential.

The Judges will have a score sheet and a sheet for additional comments. The purpose of these comments is to help and/or enhance the contestants in future endeavors.

Selection of winners will be based on the judge's score and any penalty points that the contestant may have received.

The Director and Assistant Director

will conduct a drawing prior to the beginning of the contest, with all contestants present, for the speaking order.

Please keep in mind that you were created in the image of God. You are a good and talented person and in God's eyes, everyone is a winner!

God Bless You!

ORATIONS VS SERMONS. The title implies that this is the James F. Wertz Oratorical Contest. Not the James F. Wertz Sermon Contest. Therefore, any speech presented as a Sermon is not acceptable. The penalty is disqualification. Judges will be instructed in this matter. There is a distinct distinction between the two, when delivered. ■

JAMES F. WERTZ ORATORICAL CONTEST

Congress of Christian Education of the General Baptist State Convention of NC, Inc.

Speech (Oratorical) Contest Entry Form

(Contestants who have been declared winners in their ASSOCIATIONS should complete this form)

Name of Contestant: _____ ☐ M ☐ F

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone () _____

Name of Church _____

Pastor's Name _____

Association Representing _____

Moderator's Name _____

List Prior Contest In Which You Have Participated In:

Local Church _____ Association _____

Other _____ Topic _____

Division _____ Your Grade As Of July 1, 2003 _____

Signature of Sunday School Superintendent

Signature of District President

Please mail application and a COPY OF SPEECH to:

Alberta H. Moore, 5414A Raeford Rd., Fayetteville, NC 28304, or fax to (910) 424-2194. Application deadline date is June 21, 2003.

*Instructions for applications and Oratorical Topics listed in attached article.

The Church Helping the Families of Our Troops

Submitted By Portia Brandon, M.Div.
Christian Education Coordinator



Portia
Brandon

War has come upon us but it need not overcome us. Now is the time to live out the gospel of Jesus Christ as we never have before. Even as national leaders carry out their legitimate yet heavy responsibilities of doing what they think must be done

to protect innocent people from harm, let's seize every opportunity to share the love of Christ and promote personal peace and reconciliation.

Changes in Family Structure:

A spouse left at home following deployment will be faced with work tasks that s/he may be unfamiliar with. Juggling finances, lawn care, car and home repair, cooking, and raising children can lead to stress overload and exhaustion. Families that are able to be flexible regarding roles and responsibilities are better able to deployment stresses. The local church can provide childcare referrals, including before- and after-school programs, and in home care.

Many people have expressed their concern and offered to assist those families left behind because of military activation or deployment. If you want to help, the following are just some ways you and your church can get involved.

Supporting Our Families

- Provide regular support for a neighbor in need by adopting a local family.
- Correspond regularly with a family and offer encouragement by writing a note each week.
- Help with responsibilities around

the house by becoming a Mom-for-a-day or Dad-for-a-day.

- Provide valuable respite from the stress of loneliness by child-sitting for a family.
 - Send a card to family members on birthdays, holidays, just about any day becomes special when someone cares.
 - Coordinate home repairs, maintenance, mowing lawns, trimming hedges, whatever it takes to keep the home "livable". Invite the families for an afternoon picnic or a day at the park.
 - Help a family by providing local transportation for grocery shopping, errands, church, or the doctor.
- Offering Emotional Support and Wellness**

- Provide support for families during times of local hospital stays or bereavement.
- Start a Support Group for families and those affected by this deployment.

The following are suggestions for families to help manage the stress of having a family member deployed for war-related duties:

Take time to listen to each other:

Know that deployment to war will be a typically painful and frightening time, particularly for children. Spend time listening to family members without judging or criticizing what they say.

2. Limit exposure to news media programs: News programs often emphasize fearful content and frightening images to create a "story". Prolonged watching TV news programs, for example, can create needless distress. When children worry about war, let them know that the war is far away.

Acknowledge children's fears, and let them know that parents, church family, police are here to protect them.

Understand feelings: Emotions such as fear, anger, and feeling "numb" are normal, and common reactions to stress. Family members need to make sure these emotions aren't turned against one another in frustration. Sharing feelings,

recognizing that they are normal, and realizing that most family members feel the same way.

Spend time with people: Coping with stressful events is easier when in the company of caring friends. Ask for support from your family, friends, church, or other community group.

Join or develop support groups:

Forming support groups in the church for spouses of deployed military helps spouses cope with separation from their loved ones. Peer-support groups, led by spouses of those deployed, can be a tremendous aid to family functioning. Spouses can share ideas with each other, trade childcare or other responsibilities.

Keep up routines: Try to stick to everyday routines. Familiar habits can be very comforting.

7. Take time out for fun:

Self-care: The more emotionally nurturing and stable the remaining caretaker is, the less stressed the children will be. However, trying to "do it all" can lead to exhaustion. Signs of caregiver stress include feeling as though you are unable to cope, feeling constantly exhausted, or feeling as though you no longer care about anything. It is especially important for caretakers to devote time to themselves, exercise, and get plenty of rest.

Get professional help if needed:

When stress becomes over-whelming, don't be afraid to seek professional help. Ongoing difficulties with exhaustion, apathy, worry, sleeplessness, bad dreams,

irritability, or anger outbursts warrant the attention of a professional counselor. Here are some practical ways that you can put into practice in this time of conflict, regardless of where you live or what you think of the war in Iraq.

- Study and teach peacemaking. In times of war many people are searching for better ways to deal with conflict. The time is ripe to wrestle with practical issues of confession, confrontation, justice, forgiveness, restitution, and reconciliation. Please do not let this incredible "teachable moment" pass you by. Dig into God's Word and see what He has to say about these life-changing matters, and then teach others what you are learning about peacemaking (1Pet. 3:15-16). Engage your children, talk with your friends, start conversations at work, church, lead a Sunday school class at church.

- Share the gospel of peace. Above all else, seize every opportunity to be an ambassador of reconciliation by pointing people to the Prince of Peace (2 Cor. 5:16-21). War and death are suddenly very real to everyone in the world, and questions about evil and judgment abound. People who would have brushed the gospel aside not long ago are suddenly open and marvelously interested in talking about eternal matters. The fields are truly "white unto harvest", and there can be no greater peacemaking than to help others to be reconciled to their God.

A Fresh Look at the New Testament Deacon

By John H. Walker, D. Min.

NOW AVAILABLE!

There is a critical problem concerning the Deacons and the local church, state and national conventions. The Deacons are assuming leadership roles without being equipped for the task of leadership. The relationship between the pastor and deacon is widening because there is a misunderstanding concerning the mission of the church, pastoral leadership, and the role of the deacons.

This book is a must tool to bridge the gap between the role of Pastor and Deacons in order to provide **EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP**.

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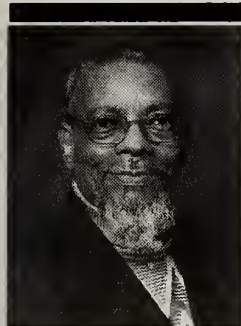
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Submitted by

Deacon John Gladden

GBSC Laymen's League had their One Day Session at St. Stephens Baptist Church in



Deacon John Gladden

Winston Salem on April 11th and 12th 2003. The banquet on Friday night was a huge success. St. Stephens had a gospel group that warmed every heart. Then we heard from our speaker of the night Bro. Hector McEachon who spoke on men being directed by God taken from Psalms I:1. Brothers Everett Miles and John Gladden were awarded Laymen of the Year Awards. Brother

Great one day session

Howard Graham was inducted into the Laymen Hall of Fame. The next morning

we were welcomed to a delicious breakfast. The session was called to order and our president announced that on Sept. 19-21 we would be taking a bus from Wilmington to Asheville by way of I-40 to the National Baptist Walter Cade Workshop, which will be held in Memphis, Tennessee. Money



Mr. Everett Miles

needs to be send in advance to the coordinator in Tennessee to reserve rooms and



Mr. John Gladden

meals. The cost will be \$95.00/person. They are asking us to form a room assignment list two in a room and send it with your monies. It will cost \$165.00 if you are in a room by yourself. The president, Bro. John Gladden wishes us to mail him all monies and room assignment lists by July 10th so that the GBSC can make one check out and

send it to Tennessee. We are asking that you make your reservations early and that all who can, come. The workshop has people from 5 southern region states coming to participate in a banquet, street ministry, and many other workshop speakers. Bro. John Gladden,s address is below. We are planning to pick up along I-40. If you have any questions please contact headquarters or our president. Next we were enlightened by a workshop on *The Power of God* by Brother Theodore David, 2nd vice president. And last but not least to put icing on the cake, we had a sermon by pastor Connie Robinson who spoke from 1 Samuel 30:1. His subject was "Taking Back Your Stuff." Everyone left the session empowered and uplifted.

President of GBSC Laymen's League
Bro. John Gladden
5218 Dolphin Lane
Charlotte, NC 28215
Phone: (704) 568-8542
GBSC 1-800-639-4272

REGISTRATION AND REPRESENTATION FORM

136th Year Celebration

MID-YEAR ANNUAL SESSION

GENERAL BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION
MAY 5-7, 2003

DR. CHARLES T. BULLOCK, PRESIDENT • DR. ARCHIE D. LOGAN, JR., EXECUTIVE SECRETARY TREASURER

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CHURCH REPRESENTATION: \$500.00

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PLEASE SEND YOUR REGISTRATION/REPRESENTATION FORM TO:
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e-mail: jmgmtc@greenville.com

Mini Skills Conference 2003

May 17, 10:00 am

J.J. Johnson Baptist Assembly, Laurel Hill SC

Registration Form

Name _____ Age _____ Grade _____

Category ☐ Performing Arts type of performance _____

☐ Science & Arts Display type of display _____

☐ Individual entry ☐ Group entry (list other members) _____

Special Needs _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Church _____ Pastor _____

Church location _____ City _____

Mini Skills coordinator _____ Phone _____

Parental permission:
I _____ give my son/daughter/guardian _____ permission
to participate in the Mini Skills Conference sponsored by the GBSC Laymen's League to be held on May
17, 2003 at J.J. Johnson Baptist Assembly, Laurel Hill NC.

Signature _____ Date _____

Clarifying the Role of the Executive Committee

By Dr. John H. Grant
Vice President At Large

Over the years the distinction between the roles of the General Board and Executive Committee has been blurred, causing considerable confusion and unnecessary duplication of activities. In a meeting on April 3, 2003 at the Martin Street Baptist Church in Raleigh, the General Board voted to address that distinction by clarifying the role of the Executive Committee.

Article VIII, Section 2 of the Convention's Constitution states that the Executive Committee "shall work under the supervision of the General Board, and shall make its report to the same. It shall function for the General Board during the interim of this session." The Executive Committee is to the General Board what the General Board is to the Convention: Both act as subordinates on behalf of a higher body and function only during the interim of that higher body's sessions.

1. Employing "the Executive Secretary-Treasurer, the Assistant to the Executive Secretary-Treasurer, the manager of the Bookstore, and such other help it deems necessary." The Executive Committee is to employ or hire all Convention staff persons, and other help it deems necessary. These include, but are not limited to, consultants, temporary and part time staff, etc. There are no exceptions.

2. Fixing "the honorariums of all Convention personnel and participants and the salaries of all the employees of the Convention." The Executive Committee is not only to know, but also fix all Convention honorariums and salaries, for all staff, all consultants, all speakers, etc. There are no exceptions.

3. Meeting "in regular session within sixty (60) days after the Annual Session of the Convention to assess the adopted program, give direction to the Departments, Commissions, Committees and Auxiliaries." This meeting is to be held by the Executive Committee once a year after the Convention's Annual Session to complete these tasks.

Among other actions taken by the General Board in its April 3, 2003 meeting were the following:

1. The Board confirmed the appointment of Dr. H. S. Diggs, pastor of the Mayfield Memorial Baptist Church of Charlotte as Vice Chairman of the Board.

2. The Board confirmed and clarified the constitutional stipulation that the

Convention Recording Secretary (Dr. Gloria Gerald) and the Convention Assistant Recording Secretary (Rev. Patricia Robinson) are responsible to serve as Recording Secretary and Assistant Recording Secretary to the General Board,

since the Board does the work of the Convention during the interim of Convention sessions. Gerald and Robinson, in consultation and collaboration with Executive Secretary-Treasurer Logan, are to keep records of the proceed-

ings of all General Board meetings for the next four years. If they cannot be present at meetings, it is their responsibility to appoint someone to be present and act in their place.

From the Desk of the Second Vice-President

By Rev. Nilous M. Avery, II - M. Div.

"To the (General Baptist Family) of God in (North Carolina), to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be holy, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ - their Lord and ours: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ" {1 Corinthians 1:2-3, NIV}.

Rev. Nilous Avery, II

Jesus' statement in Matthew 5:14 rings loudly in my ears: "You are the light of the world." When we carefully and prayerfully examine this statement, it is clearly a bold, yet bewildering proclamation. Imagine how perplexed the listeners of Jesus' day were when they heard this profound proclamation.

Here they were, living in a land that was far removed from the awesome and magnificent power of imperial Rome. They perhaps had envisioned what the great city of their oppressor must have looked like. Rome to them was the bright light that shone upon a hill. Yet, Jesus proclaimed them (His disciples) to be "the light of the world". Could it be that Jesus already saw them wrapped in a power so awesome - so marvelous - so impressive - so formidable,

that Rome's light paled in comparison? YES!

Jesus knew that the power of God, which was promised to those who trusted and followed Him, could and would achieve what no other power in existence could! Jesus proclaimed this promise several times. Look at it in two specific passages:

- "I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high" {Luke 24:49, NIV}.
- "... Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about ... you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you ..." {Acts 1:4b, 8a, NIV}.

Jesus was declaring that those who receive God's power would accomplish what no other power on earth could do. Through them, God's power would provide light to a world that was bound by the darkness of lesser powers. Through them, God's light would enable, equip, and empower them to be witnesses of Christ, even "to the ends of the earth." The light of Rome was no match for the promised power that the disciples would receive in order to serve as the light of the world.

The same is true today. My sisters and brothers in Christ, **YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD!** This is the promise of Christ from Christ to all who trust and follow the Lord. We receive this world-illuminating power from God

through an intimate companionship and

communion with the once crucified, but now risen Christ! That's it! That is why the Apostle Paul could exclaim with confidence: "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me" {Galatians 2:20, NIV}.

With this power:

- we overcome weakness because God's power works through human weakness;
- we are rescued and healed; thus, we become rescuers and healers because God's power rescues and heals those who are handcuffed in the ruins of destructive experiences;
- we become a Christian community which reaches out to the least, the lost, those who are left out, looked over, and let down because God's power strengthens Christian communities.

YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD! General Baptists, we are the light of the world. Everything we do has but one purpose: to **GLORIFY GOD & EDIFY OTHERS**. We are a faith community that is powered by the Holy Spirit. As such, we are challenged by our Lord to grow **UPWARD, INWARD, and OUTWARD**. In responding to Jesus' proclamation of our illuminating power, we must embrace the call to become witnesses in action {Matthew 25:31-40}.

The opportunity is available for us to shine. The ministry of foreign missions is a vehicle that provides the glorious opportunity for God's light to shine in us. Shine today through your gifts of time, talent, treasure, your temple (your physical being), and your testimony.

Shine today - turn on your light by supporting the Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission ministries. Shine today by contacting me - I will be glad to share with you through mail, e-mail, telephone, or in person how blessings will flow abundantly through your illumination in foreign missions support:

◆ Reverend Nilous M. Avery, II,
2nd Vice-President GBSC
Pastor, Mount Zion Baptist Church
P. O. Box 2767, Salisbury, NC
28145-2767
E-mail: averyrevkin@aol.com;
(704) 637-0954 - office;
(704) 637-1137 - fax.

I look forward to hearing from you as we shine together! "May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all" {2 Corinthians 13:14, NIV}.

Fourth Vice President Celebrates Pastoral Anniversary

On Sunday, March 2, 2003, St. Stephen Missionary Baptist Church, Elizabeth City, NC, observed its 107th church and 21st pastor's anniversary. Rev. Sherman Lassiter, Associate Pastor, New Hope Baptist Church, Gates, NC, delivered the morning message.

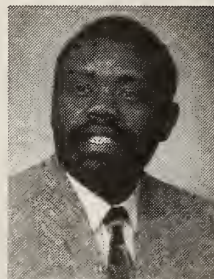
An appreciation banquet was held in honor of Rev. Ricky L. Banks at 6:00 p.m. at the Kermit E. White Graduate Center, on the campus of Elizabeth City State University. Approximately

300 persons were in attendance. The event was presided over by Rev. Vonner G. Horton, Pastor of Oxley Hill Missionary Baptist Church, Merry Hill, NC. The Rev. Dr. Brian Wright, Pastor of the Terrill Creek Baptist Church, Chapel

Hill, NC delivered the message for the grand occasion. Featured at the banquet was a continuous video power point slide presentation of Rev. Banks's life from his childhood to the present.

One of the highlights of the evening was a proclamation that was presented to Rev. Banks by the Mayor of Elizabeth City, the Honorable John H. Bell, Jr., proclaiming the first Sunday in March of each year as St. Stephen Missionary Baptist Church "Pastor Recognition Day". The proclamation listed Rev. Banks's good works in the church as well as the community.

The evening culminated with the pastor giving an annual tribute to one of his faithful members. This year's honoree was Mrs. Katrina J. Spence.



Rev. Ricky Banks

By Dr. Jasper P. Reed
GBSC Historian

A Contemporary Historian

The Lord said to Abram, "Leave your native land, your relatives, and your father's home, and go to a country that I



Dr. Jasper
Reed

am going to show you. - I will bless you and make your name famous, so that you will be a blessing." Genesis 12:1 and 2b. As we pause to take a look at another in our series of contemporary historical figures, let us go again to GBSC's

list of Past Presidents. Long before the genesis of GBSC, the Lord set into motion the creation of the environ in which to bring forth this young dynamic leader.

In the 1700s Bertie County gave birth to

Edgecombe County, which in turn gave birth to Nash County.

It was here that the Lord would call into His service Chancy Rudolph Edwards. His preparation for service began in the Nash County Public Schools. Upon completion he left the comfort of Nash County, in obedience to Lord's command, and entered Shaw University. He furthered his preparations by matriculating in Shaw Divinity School, Southeastern Theological Seminary, Union Theological Seminary, and finally returning to Shaw University to receive an Honorary Doctor of Divinity degree. The Word in Genesis 12:1 is a command followed by a promise in 12:2. Being prepared for the ministry Dr. Edwards served as a Pastor for many years gaining the experiences that he would need to lead God's people. His pastoral ministry was both challenging and preparatory for the journey that God had planned for him.

During the years 1970 through 1974 he was called to lead the General Baptist

State Convention of NC, Inc., into the decade of the seventies. That which commanded his focus was a perceived lack of unity within and between the auxiliaries of the convention. This did not characterize a strong convention. Remembering a chain is only as strong as its weakest link. A second area of focus was to promote increased giving to the objectives of the convention. Dr. Edwards was e-pluribus u-num. He was one out of the many potential leaders at Shaw University as well as one out of the many who came from Shaw University to preside over the GBSC. As such he was cognizant of the objectives of the GBSC since Shaw University was one of them. The others during his administration were Lott Carey, State Missions, and the Central Children Home of Oxford, NC. As Dr. Edwards continued in obedience to his calling, listen as the Spirit administers to him through Ephesians 1:18: "I ask that your minds be opened to see his light, so that you will know what is the hope to

which he has called you, how rich are the wonderful blessings he promises his people."

Beyond his focuses Dr. Edwards' greatest challenge was to attempt to gain total support and participation of all churches affiliated with associations that make up the GBSC. In his own words, "General Baptist State Convention gave me its highest office and my greatest challenge to serve my denomination in North Carolina. He places into position written personnel policies for the convention. Dr. Edwards is known as one of the most knowledgeable pastors in the areas of Interim Pastors' and New Pastors' relationship with their congregations. He is a tireless worker for the advancement of GBSC and its programs. He is a major proponent of the Lott Carey Foreign Missions Programs. His current endeavors include working with present GBSC administration and the current Administration of the State of North Carolina. He is working diligently to enhance the productivity of both.

MINISTER'S COUNCIL

News from the Minister's Council

By Dr. Donaldson Jones, President



Dr. Donaldson
Jones

Pastor Jones, is it Biblically acceptable for a Christian to have a tattoo?

This is an important topic to address at the moment because tattoos seem to have become very fashionable among the youth culture of our day. A number

of young and some not so young are sporting tattoos in our churches. Let's study this together.

The Old Testament Ruling

"You shall not make any cuttings in your

flesh for the dead, nor tattoo any marks on you: I am the Lord." Leviticus 19:28 - NKJV.

The Authorized King James Version is just as clear as New King James Bible and so is the Amplified Bible and the New Living Translation. They tell of two things not to be done - 1) make any cuttings in your flesh for the dead and 2) tattoo any marks on you.

Law or Spirit?

I must say though, having pointed that out, that a legalistic approach is not the appropriate one for dealing with this issue - or any such issue - in Christian circles. The reason for this is that we, as believers, are not under the Law. There are numerous declarations of this in the New Testament. Perhaps the clearest are the following two.

"Having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us,

which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross." Colossians 2:14 - NKJV.

"The Law was our tutor to bring us up to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor." Galatians 3:3:24-25 - NKJV.

You might well then ask, "What are our constraints if we are not under the Law?" The New Testament gives us a wonderfully direct answer to this,

"For the love of Christ controls and urges and impels us." 2 Corinthians 5:14 - Amplified Bible.

Paul also expands on this answer in his letter to the Romans. He writes, "Now we are discharged from the Law and have terminated all intercourse with it, having died to what once restrained us and held us captive. So now we serve not under [obedience to] the old code of written regulations, but [under obedience to the promptings] of the Spirit of newness of life." Romans 7:6 - Amplified Bible.

The counsel of God's Spirit

Is it possibly justifiable for a Christian to accept a tattoo? I would say no!

The issue here is not one of law but rather of what any tattoo represents and, most seriously of all, the life-long com-

mitment the receiving of a tattoo makes to what or whoever it represents!

I believe this is why God closes Leviticus 19:28 with the words, "I am the Lord." He's declaring that a tattoo represents a statement of absolute commitment and allegiance to someone or something. He's saying He's the only one worthy of absolute commitment and allegiance. He's saying He certainly doesn't want you committing yourself to Him with a tattoo and He very definitely doesn't want you making a commitment like this to someone or something else!

There is another issue here too. The Spirit of God in the New Testament has made some very definite statements about our bodies. By Paul the Holy Spirit has declared,

"Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God and you are not your own? For you are bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit which are God's." 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 - NKJV.

Can a tattoo be considered to glorify God? Can a tattoo be considered appropriate adorning to the Temple of the Holy Spirit?

Any Christian must answer some very searching questions if they are considering adorning themselves with a tattoo. I believe the questions the Spirit of God poses from the Word of God must lead a Christian to conclude that a tattoo is not for them!



The Prayer Line

Rev. David K. Miles M.Div.
919-264-9249 9pm - 7am

Peace Be Unto You: A Life of Discipleship

By Dr. A.T. Griffey, III

When Jesus told His closest followers, **"Go and make disciples of all nations"**



Dr. A.T. Griffey, III

process of discipleship begins prior to Salvation and continues as we are "con-

(Matthew 28:19), He wasn't just talking about the one-time event of Salvation. He was referring to the life-long process of **"teaching them to obey everything I have commanded"** (Matthew 28:20). This

formed to the likeness of His Son"

(Romans 8:29). This need is made clear as Jesus explains the parable of the soils.

(Mark 4:14-20) - **"The farmer sows the word. Some people are like seed along the path, where the word is sown. As soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in them. Others, like seed sown on rocky places, hear the word and at once receive it with joy. But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word; but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful. Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear**

the word, accept it, and produce a crop."

Praise God for those who are sowing seed! The Word of God will never be received if there are not those willing to sow into the lives of others. However, receiving the word, or even its initial growth, is not Salvation! Receiving and being initially excited about the Word can occur without conviction and certainly without a change of heart. Without proper nourishment and protection - without some form of discipleship - the received word will die and never produce fruit.

Discipleship prepares the soil and leads those who receive the Word to a true understanding of: **"Whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life"** (John 3:16). Discipleship then helps our roots go deep and provides water for sustained growth; it teaches how to recog-

nize and eliminate the thorns which choke and kill; it provides the necessary nutrients to produce a crop.

We must commit to being disciplined through reading God's Word, seeking Him in prayer, receiving biblical teaching, and being in fellowship with other believers. We must also search for other "seeds" which are beginning to grow and disciple them as they **"come to a knowledge of the truth"** (1 Timothy 2:4).

Let's reach up to our Heavenly Father and reach out to those He places in our path. The world is searching and the precious life-giving seed is being sown. Let's nurture and encourage at every opportunity. The planted seed will only produce fruit and live to bring Him glory and honor as each of us commits to a life of discipleship.

Have a Great Day!

USHER'S NEWS

Wake County Usher's Union News

Submitted by Mazie D. Lewis, Corresponding Secretary

The Wake County Usher's Union, an auxiliary of the Wake County Missionary Baptist Association, presented its Annual Workshop on Saturday, March 1, 2002 at Friendship Chapel Baptist Church, Wake Forest, North Carolina where Dr. Enoch Holloway is the pastor.



Mr. Forest Eaves

Wake County Usher's Union President, Harold Booker, presided over the workshop. After the registration period, Robert Barner, Lanis Fowler, Mary Ann Justice and Faye Walton led devotion. Rev. Patricia Jones of Friendship Chapel Baptist Church gave words of welcome followed by the response by Vice President of the Usher's Union, Anthony Hinton. Nancy High, State Coordinator, and Charles Dunn, 2nd Vice President of the General Baptist Usher's Convention presented greetings to the workshop participants. Shelia Keith and Kaye Russell introduced the facilitators, Rev. Everett Jenkins of St. Matthews Baptist Church and Rev. Patricia Jones of Friendship Chapel Baptist Church.

The theme of the Adult Session, led by Rev. Jenkins was "To serve this present age, my calling to fulfill" with Ephesians

4:11, 12 used as a reference. Rev. Jenkins led the discussion on Perfecting of the Saints, Works of the Ministry and Edifying of the Body of Christ. Additionally, he led the discussion on the Five Fold Ministry of Christ divided into Apostles, Prophets, Evangelist and Pastor/Teacher. The adult usher participants also received information on "How Ushers Fit In" with Ephesians 4:1-3 used as a reference. The major points included, walk worthy of the vocation to which ushers are called, ushers must be called (must be born again), must love one another, it is not what is said but what is done, and love is the tool needed to do the job of the usher.

Rev. Jones presented the Six Basic Techniques of Ushering for the Youth Session. The techniques discussed; Greeting Worshipers, Seating Worshipers, Receiving the Offering, Dealing with Uncooperative Persons, Receiving Special Guest and Clergy, and Controlling Crowds.

After a recap of the two sessions by Evangeline Phillips, Linda McClain took the offering with prayer given by George Hinton. Charles Dunn, Chief Usher and Lanis Fowler, Assistant Chief Usher presented a workshop session on the signals and communications for ushers.

The announcements for the congregation included information on the Annual Usher's Convention to be held May 3, 2003 at Faith Missionary Baptist Church in Raleigh. Rev. David C. Forbes, Sr. will be the guest speaker. Details on the convention will be distributed to the presidents of the usher ministries of the churches in the union. At the convention, there will be a talent contest for our

Youth/Young Adult Ushers. Contestant names may be submitted to the Youth Committee Chairman, Charles Upchurch. Events for the remainder of 2003 will be the Usher's Picnic in June 2003 at Durant Road Park in Raleigh and the Usher Presidents Meeting on September 6, 2003 at New Bethel Baptist Church, Rolesville. Carlton Hockaday, Financial Secretary and Benjamin Hooker, Treasurer gave the financial report. The workshop ended with remarks by Union President, Harold

Booker and the Benediction by Rev. Jenkins.

Wake County Usher's Union Officers: President, Harold Booker; Vice President, Anthony Hinton; Recording Secretary, Willie Mae Roberson; Corresponding Secretary, Mazie D. Lewis; Treasurer, Benjamin Hooker; Financial Secretary, Carlton Hockaday; Chief Usher, Charles Dunn; Assistant Chief Usher, Lanis Fowler.

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By Mary M. McKoy Belle,
Secretary (Ushers' Convention)

Ushers' News

Greetings with the Joy of Jesus Christ our Lord, brothers and sisters in the Ushering Ministry, all members of the General Baptist family and to all of our supporters!

President (Forest) Eaves and the officers of the North Carolina Ushers' Convention appreciate your attendance during our Annual One Day Workshop held recently (February) in Winston Salem, North Carolina. President Eaves and the Executive Board ask that you continue to pray for us as we work diligently to plan programs and activities that will assist ushers with the Ushering Ministry in their local churches.

Dean, Reverend Marvin Clowney, Clinton, North Carolina and Assistant

Dean, Mr. Roy Harris, Asheville, North Carolina are committed to the task of providing workshops and programs that will keep you informed with helpful information pertinent to your spiritual growth as well as information relevant to ushering techniques.

Prior to the GBSC Unity Session which will be held in Charlotte, North Carolina, July 17-19, local ushers are planning various activities.

President Forest Eaves and the District III Ushers held their Annual Day on Sunday, April 27 at Second Calvary Baptist Church, Charlotte, North Carolina. The theme for the 4:00 pm program was "Striving for Success". Reeder Memorial Baptist Church (3725 Beatties

Ford Road), Charlotte, North Carolina will host the Quarterly Meeting for the ushers of District III on Saturday, May 24, at 10:00 am. District III Annual Workshop will be held Saturday, June 21 (8:30 am - 1:00 pm). At Greater Mount Sinai Baptist Church, Charlotte, North Carolina, District III ushers will participate in various classes led by facilitators, Dr. Haywood T. Gray, Pastor, Temple Memorial Baptist Church, High Point, North Carolina; Mr. Roy Harris, Assistant Dean, State Ushers' Convention and Ms. Eddie Culbreth, Saint Luke Baptist Church, Charlotte, North Carolina. Mr. Forest Eaves, President of District III stated that the cost of the workshop would be \$5.00 (adults) and \$3.00 (youth). The cost

would include lunch. Ushers are asked to please wear uniforms.

The Johnston District Missionary Baptist Ushers' Union Quarterly Meeting will be held at the Union Baptist Church, Raleigh, North Carolina on May. 3. Local presidents are asked by President Mary M. McKoy Belle to present updated Ushers' rolls during the 9:30 am registration. First Missionary Baptist Church, Smithfield, North Carolina will be the host church for the Johnston District Ushers' Annual Prayer Breakfast on June. 14. The morning fellowship will commence at 8:00 am.

Local churches, Ushers' Associations and Ushers' Unions are asked to send Usher's news to:

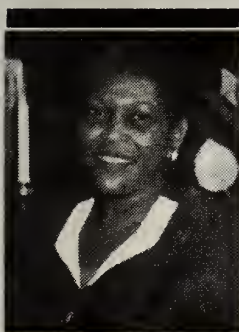
Mary M. McKoy Belle, 536 Diamond Plum Circle, Virginia Beach, Virginia 23452.

YOUTH CORNER

When you pray

By Delores Griffey

Lord's sample prayer found in Matt. 6: 5-15



Delores
Griffey

When Jesus was on the earth as a man He taught His disciples many lessons. One of the things Jesus taught His followers was how to pray. Using the Lord's Prayer or the Model Prayer as our guideline.

"Our Father"

GOD IS OUR FATHER

Think of God as a loving Father

A Father you can go to for help and direction.

"Which art in heaven"

GOD IS IN HEAVEN

God's throne is one of power and beauty. Read Revelation 4 to get an idea of what you are approaching when you pray.

"Hallowed be your name"

PRAISE AND HONOR GOD'S NAME

Thank God for how Great He Is.

"Your kingdom come"

PRAY FOR GOD'S KINGDOM TO COME TO EARTH

Talk with God about how badly the people of the earth need God and His government

People bringing unhappiness upon themselves because of lawless lifestyle (examples: wars, drugs, wrong sex practices, abortions, unwed mothers, disease, and

unhappy marriages)

"Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven"

GOD'S WILL BE DONE

May Your human workers make wise and right decisions

"Give us this day our daily bread."

PRAY OUR PHYSICAL NEEDS ARE MET

Bless us with good, healthy food

Grant us good health

Provide our family with a good steady income

Send your angels to protect us from all harm

PRAY FOR OUR SPIRITUAL NEEDS

Bless us with spiritual understanding
Supply us with sound material that will help us with our study of your word

"And forgive us our sins"

FORGIVE US OUR SINS

Forgive me the sins I know about but have trouble overcoming. Grant me the strength to overcome in the future.

Forgive me the sins I'm not aware of and help me to become aware of them and to overcome them.

"As we forgive those who have sinned against us"

FORGIVE THOSE WHO SIN AGAINST ME

Forgive anyone who may have sinned against me, and help me to love them in spite of the hurt they may have caused.

"Lead us not into temptation" (trials)

PRAY FOR OTHERS

Those who are sick or injured
Those who may be struggling to overcome a sin

Comfort those who have lost a loved one

"But deliver us from the Evil One"

PRAY FOR PROTECTION

Protect us from Satan (examples: protect us from his negative broadcasting, protect us from his anger.)

"For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever"

CONCLUDING PRAISE TO GOD

Realize how great God is and yet He listens to us and wants to help us. He loves us more than we are capable of understanding- He has unconditional love

"Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you."

John 16: 23

IN JESUS NAME WE PRAY

Remember Jesus sits at the right hand of God and makes intercession for us. Thank God the Father for the sacrifice of His Son

AMEN

Amen means, "So be it"

Remember Matt. 21: 22 "And all things, whatsoever you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive."

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The ultimate mission

Matthew 28:18-20

By Michael R. Smith, Sr., Chairman

Jesus Christ fulfilled the ultimate mission when he finished atoning for our



Rev. Michael Smith, Sr.

sins on the cross and His resurrection. His entire earthly ministry culminated and was consummated at Calvary. Therefore, the church's part begins at the cross in fulfilling the Great Commission. Every disciple is called to share the Gospel with persons we encounter in our spheres of social life. Every local church body is commanded to "make disciples" who understand their divine purpose and mission. The ultimate mission could only be fulfilled by the Savior Himself. Our part known as the Great Commission was Jesus' final commands to church leadership before His final ascension. Today, churches are facing greater challenges to fulfilling our part of the Great Commission. We are challenged by other competing faith claims in our religious diverse society. We are challenged by other religious faith teachings being syncretized (mixed) leading to theological confusion. We are challenged by a false gospel from within the church that preaches a resurrection without a crucifixion. I believe this is the greatest challenge to the Church fulfilling our ultimate mission—the Great Commission. WHY? It leaves out the Cross of Christ. When the cross is not the central message in our gospel and correct

ly integrated into the blessed resurrection, the Great Commission of the church becomes sabotaged and aborted. Our motivation for missions begins at the Cross of Christ. Our example for missions is perfectly exemplified at the Cross of Christ. Our message (the Gospel) is under girded by the Cross of Christ. P. T. Forsyth said, "A Church cold to missions is a Church dead to the Cross." I pray for churches that are dead to missions and only living to maintain their institution and self centered activities. I pray they will come back to the Cross of Christ and recapture the purpose for their existence. The prisons are the fastest growing mission field in the country. Yet, many churches are still ignoring God's call to respond to this area of mission. I pray institutionalized churches will become organic (the Body of Christ) again and break from their imprisonment to self serving to serving this "present age" out in the midst of the world. The Great Commission commands "go into all the world" not just your church building (sanctuary). I will close with the words of Bill Easum. "To follow Jesus into the mission field means that to be effective on the mission field, Christianity must again become a movement. The Acts of the Apostles portray Christianity more as a movement than a religion. It is time we recognized that fact and begin to live like disciples committed to a radical movement rather than entitled members committed to protecting our institutions."

I continue to call all inactive GBSC churches to join the ISM on the mission field in reaching, reconciling and restoring lives impacted by crime and incarceration.

National Chaplain of the Year honored

April 14, 2003 – The Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) has honored the Reverend Michael R. Smith, Sr. as the National Chaplain of The Year. This selection is made from among Chaplains throughout the country serving in Federal Bureau of Prisons facilities. This honor is awarded annually by the BOP in recognition of outstanding ministry to inmates, staff and community. Reverend Smith is a native of Raleigh, N.C. beginning his career in corrections in 1979 as a Correctional Officer with the North Carolina Department of Correction at Central Prison. He was called to full-time ministry in 1986 and was licensed and ordained at Martin Street Baptist Church under the Pastorate of Dr. David C. Forbes, Sr. His calling led him to serve as a Staff Chaplain at Central Prison from 1988-1993. He was selected to become the Head Chaplain for the N.C. Division of Prisons North Central Area from 1993-95. Reverend Smith was then called to serve the past 8 years in the Federal Bureau of Prisons with pastoral assignments to the Metropolitan Correctional Center, Chicago, Illinois, the Federal Correction Institution, Estill, South Carolina and presently as Supervisory Chaplain/Pastor at the Federal Correctional Complex in Butner, N.C. He serves as Pastor-Teacher of Cross of Christ Church. His other responsibilities include serving as Chairman of General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina's Institutional and Specialized Ministries which provides training to GBSC churches in responding to crime

and incarceration. He provides input as a member of the N.C. Advisory Committee on Religious Ministry in Prisons to the N.C. Department of Corrections. He is a graduate of Fayetteville State University, B.A. Sociology in 1979, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1989 and is presently pursuing doctoral studies at this time.

Reverend Smith is committed to reaching, reconciling and restoring lives impacted by crime and incarceration. This burden has led him to be a catalyst around the country encouraging faith communities to respond to this growing mission field. This year Reverend Smith will lead the convening of the 3rd Annual Crime and Incarceration Conference (Theme – Reaching At-Risk Youth) at historic Shaw University's Divinity School, August 1-2, 2003 in Raleigh, N.C. Reverend Smith states, "I am deeply humbled and honored to be a recipient of this wonderful award. I pray the vital ministry of chaplains in the prison setting will continue to receive the support and recognition for so many dedicated men and women around this country who labor for the Kingdom of God in this 'great and hidden ministry'. To God my Father be all the glory!"

Reverend Smith is the son of Wade and the late Marceline Smith. He is married to the former Renee V. Jones and has four children, Michael Jr., Dedrick (Christie), Faith, and Joel. He can be reached at his office 919-575-3900 ext. 6203 or by email at mrsmith@bop.gov.

IMPORTANT ISM ANNOUNCEMENTS

*3RD ANNUAL CRIME & INCARCERATION CONFERENCE

August 1 – 2, 2003

Theme - "Strategies To Reach Our At-Risk Youth"

Historic Shaw University Divinity School – Raleigh, NC
Church Registration \$100.00 / Individual Registration \$25.00

*CALL FOR CRIME & INCARCERATION SUNDAY

Theme: "A Day Of Awareness, Education And Outreach"

Calling all Pastors to have a special service at least once a year to educate and train the Lord's people in responding to the crime and incarceration crisis.

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Planning and equipping churches to respond to crime & incarceration.

Contact Information—Michael R. Smith, Sr., M. Div.

O – (919) 575-3900 x 6203 / mrsmith@bop.gov

H – mrsmithgbsc@aol.com or disciplescross@aol.com

GBSC 3rd Annual Crime & Incarceration CONFERENCE

Theme - "STRATEGIES TO REACH OUR AT-RISK YOUTH"

AUGUST 1 - 2, 2003

HISTORIC SHAW UNIVERSITY DIVINITY SCHOOL
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By Anita P. Holmes, JD, MPH,
Executive Director

Eating 5 to 9 and Feeling Fine Fruits and Vegetables Anytime!

The good news is that American adults are eating more fruits and vegetables, nearing the minimum of "5 A Day" for better health. But, many Americans should strive to eat up to 9 daily servings.



Dr. Anita
Holmes

vegetables a day.

The 5 A Day slogan, representing the message to eat at least 5 servings of fruits and vegetables a day for better health, is one of the most widely recognized nutrition messages in the world. "But, it's time to let Americans know that the recommendation is really '5 to 9' servings," explained Lorelei DiSogra, Ed.D., R.D., director of the 5 A Day Program at NCI. "According to the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, released jointly by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in 2000, children ages two to six should eat 5 servings of fruits and vegetables a day for good health; children over age six, active women, and teens should eat 7; and active teen boys and men should eat 9."

The recommendation to eat 5 to 9 servings of fruits and vegetables a day dates back to 1991 when the USDA first published the Food Guide Pyramid. The pyramid recommends eating 2 to 4 servings of fruits and 3 to 5 servings of veg-

etables every day for a total of 5 to 9 daily servings. In 1999, USDA published an additional pyramid for young children specifying that children ages two to six should eat 3 servings of vegetables and 2 servings of fruit for a total of 5 servings of fruits and vegetables each day.

"Eating 5 to 9 and Feeling Fine" was the theme for the National Cancer Institute's (NCI) 5 A Day Week, September 22-28, 2002. Even if you missed the earlier publicity, it's not too late to take advantage of this important health information. The following article is provided at the NCI 5 A Day for Better Health Program website.

Scientific findings continue to support the importance of eating more colorful fruits and vegetables because they may reduce the risk for heart disease, hypertension, certain types of cancer, diabetes and other diseases. Although eating more fruits and vegetables, a relatively simple lifestyle change, could have a profound impact on the nation's health, approximately 70 percent of American adults and children are still not eating enough.

"Colorful fruits and vegetables—green, yellow/orange, red, blue/purple, and white—provide essential vitamins, minerals, fiber, and several hundred unique disease-fighting phytochemicals that work together," said DiSogra. "Only fruits and vegetables, not pills or supplements, can provide all of these health benefits."

Even people who are trying to lose weight could benefit from eating more fruits and vegetables because they are naturally low in calories and high in fiber and water. Eating fruits and vegetables and engaging in frequent physical activity are two important lifestyle behaviors for weight control. More than 60 percent of adults in the U.S. are overweight or

obese. "We are not recommending that overweight Americans eat more food, but if they want to control or maintain their weight, they could replace higher-calorie foods with fruits and vegetables," said DiSogra. "The high water and fiber content of fruits and vegetables will help

keep them well-satisfied on fewer calories."

Groups who tend not to eat enough fruits and vegetables include school age children and teenagers, men ages 20 to 59 years, African-Americans, and lower income and lower educated populations. Because African-Americans have the lowest awareness (less than 14 percent) of the

importance of eating fruits and vegetables, have the lowest intake of fruits and vegetables, and have the highest rates of many diet-related diseases, NCI is spearheading a national campaign to reach African-American men ages 35 to 50 years with the "eat 5 to 9" message.

Most people do not realize how easy it is to get their 5 to 9 daily servings of fruits and veggies. Servings are much smaller than people think. One serving is only 1/2 cup of cooked vegetables or fruit, 1/4 cup of dried fruit, 3/4 cup of 100 percent juice, or one cup of salad or leafy greens. A large salad, for instance, can add up to 2 to 3 servings of vegetables.

Fresh, frozen, dried, canned, and juiced fruits and vegetables all count towards the "5 to 9" goal. A glass of 100 percent juice with breakfast, a banana for a mid-morning snack, a salad at lunch, some carrot sticks or an apple in the afternoon, and pasta with cooked veggies and tomato sauce at dinner is just one example of how easy it is to get up to 9 servings a day.

For additional tips and recipes, check out the 5 A Day Web site at www.5aday.gov.

Recipe of the Month

Refreshing Chicken Salad

Serves 4

2 cups cooked rice, cooled to room temperature
1 1/2 cups cooked chicken breast cubes
1/4 cup tightly packed fresh parsley
8 ounces plain nonfat yogurt
2 cups cantaloupe, diced
1/4 cup tightly packed fresh mint leaves
1 clove garlic, halved
Lettuce leaves

Nutritional Analysis

Calories: 285 Fat: 3 g Cholesterol: 42 mg
Fiber: 1 g Sodium: 96 mg
% Calories from Fat: 9%

Combine, rice, cantaloupe, and chicken in large bowl. Place knife blade in food processor; add mint, parsley, and garlic. Cover, process until finely chopped. Transfer to small bowl; add yogurt and blend. Add to rice mixture and toss lightly. Chill 2 hours. Serve on lettuce leaves.

This is an official 5 A Day recipe, and provides four people with more than one serving of fruit/vegetable each.

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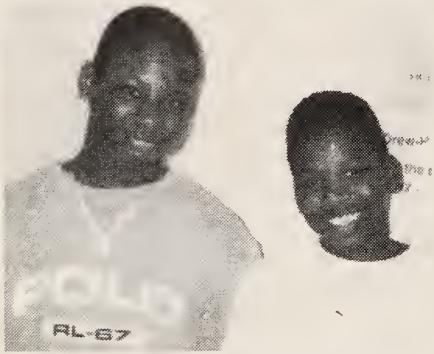
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ADOPTION AND FOSTER CARE NEWS

Introducing Ronnie and Dominique...



Ronnie and Dominique are sure to charm you with their big smiles and friendly personalities. They love to pick

on each other, but they get along very well.

A Closer Look at Ronnie...

Ronnie describes himself as a beautiful, intelligent young black man who is also smart and funny. His foster mom says he is jovial and loves to joke around, especially with his younger brother. Ronnie like to draw, play sports and he has developed a healthy interest in girls. He is able to do grade level work in school, although he could do better. Ronnie does not discuss his feelings about his past, but he attends counseling to help him deal with issues of separation and loss. Birthday: April 23, 1988

A Closer Look at Dominique...

Dominique also likes to joke around and he is happy and smiling most of the time. He loves to play sports, especially basketball and football. He also likes to play video games and attend camp. Dominique is learning to tell his foster parents when he is upset or angry before his feelings can escalate and get out of hand. He does have to work hard to keep up in class. Dominique also attends counseling to help him address his feelings about his past and about adoption. Birthday: April 4, 1989

A Family for Ronnie and Dominique...

Ronnie and Dominique are in need of

a loving family who can provide them with a structured environment. They can be "sweetly manipulative" to get what they want, so they would both benefit from parents who will set firm rules and expectations from the beginning. Dominique will need a family who will motivate him academically by appropriate rewards or consequences. (NC #041-1135) (NC #041-1136)

For more information on these children or adoption in general, please call the NC Kids Adoption and Foster Care Network's toll free hotline at 1-877-NCKIDS-1 (1-877-625-4371)

We must say goodbye

By Dorothy A. Demby-Paige

Bridges, Inc., The Faith based arm of the General Baptist State Convention's Adoption and Foster Care Ministry will end its efforts at the end of this fiscal year. We have worked through the North Carolina Division of Social Services in a statewide adoption and foster care recruitment and referral initiative from the fall of 1999 to the present time. Due to the budget cuts and the duplication of efforts in the state department it has been necessary to cut some contracts and ours, unfortunately, has been eliminated. Our efforts, with your help, have created a tremendous roster of potential foster care and adoptive parents and these potential parents need to be encouraged to complete the process. They need to be encouraged to get into a MAPP class to begin the process of becoming a licensed home because our children are in need of loving, caring, nurturing homes. They need a family to call their own. They need to know that they are important and that every effort will continue to be made to get the children and the parents together.

From the inception of our recruitment and referral program to now, and with the help of all of you who have assisted us in any way, we want to say thank you for a job well done. I guess we can say that we did our job too well as we have created a backlog that the licensing agencies can work with and provide the homes that are needed for the children now in the custody of the state.

We have worked through the North Carolina African American Faith Communities and we were united for the children. We expanded our faith based ministry beyond the Baptist Faith after the initial phase to form partnerships with other faiths and organizations. We enjoyed our solicitations and presenta-

tions at meeting, conventions, conferences, associations, and one-on-one encounters and we know that our efforts made the communities more aware of the plight of the African American children that are in the custody in great numbers and remain in the system longer than any other ethnic group. In our efforts to recruit singles and couples to become adoptive or foster care parents we were able to dispel biases and myths that were incorrectly conceived by many who had wanted to get involved but hesitated until they were better informed. You helped us to do this and again we thank you.

We had the mandate to cover the 100 counties in the state and find volunteers who could help us get the word out. We did this successfully but could not have done it alone.

We tried various strategies. Some worked. Some didn't. With God's blessings and your help we created working relationships in 87 of the 100 counties mainly through the churches in these counties. So a special thank you must go out to the Pastors and lay people who invited us to speak to their congregations or at a special meeting.

To our staff who worked tirelessly to get the job done, I personally thank you. It was a big job that Dr. Joseph C. Paige undertook but I believe that both he and God are pleased with the program and our efforts. I am sorry that we will not be actively engaged with this effort next fiscal year, but we have it in our hearts and know that we will not cease our interest and prayers for the success of the agencies who must work very hard to get the children and parents together. The wait for a child in the custody of the state, is too long no matter how short their time outside of a family of their own.

Again, thank you.

If you have an interest in adoption and foster care please call your county social services.



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SPECIAL ATTENTION!

The Joseph C. Paige Golf Classic
sponsored by the
GBSC Adoption and Foster Care Ministry
Scheduled for May 23rd
will NOT be held!

Thank you for supporting the ministry.

Presentation at Middle District Missionary Baptist Association Mid-Year Session

By Earl Horton, Director of Public Relations

The GBSC Adoption and Foster Care Ministry/Bridges Inc. conducted a presentation at the Middle District Missionary



Earl Horton

Baptist Association in Burgaw on March 14th under the direction of the Reverend Dr. Andre Carr, Sr. This presentation supports our mission to educate and inform the faith communities of our program to recruit African

American couples and single to become adoptive or foster care parents.

The Association's Mid-Year Session was held at New Christian Missionary Baptist Church where the Reverend Reginald Wells serves as pastor and 2nd Vice Moderator of the association.

1 Corinthians 3:8 states: *The one who plants and the one who waters work as a Team with the same purpose. Yet they will be rewarded individually, according to their own hard work.*

It has always been our goal to plant the seed of the need of our children in the North Carolina Child Welfare System. It is our sincere desire that pastors along with their congregations would then water the need to identify permanent homes for our children growing up in the foster care. According to God's word as quoted above we will individually be rewarded according to our own hard works. What a challenge God has placed in our hands – to take care of our children!

It has always amazed our staff that so many people in African American communities have no idea that children are growing up in foster care and that according to documented statistics become a part of the adult homeless population.

North Carolina currently has over 9,000 children in the custody of county departments of social services. Some of these children will return to their families while others will grow up in the foster care system. Our challenge has been since 1999 to recruit African Americans for the purpose of seeking permanent homes for our children. Our children consist of siblings (sisters and brothers) of various ages however, a large population of our children ranges in the age of 10-12 years and some of our children have special medical

needs. There are so many teenagers wishing to become a part of the family. A lot of these teenagers reach the age limit of 18 years who must decide what they must do to better their lives. Some kids decide to continue their education by enrolling in a college or vocational school, still other teenagers decide to go into the workforce to earn a living on their own. They need help with this. There is a need for foster homes for teenagers even though they are over the age of being a product of the child welfare system.

In our state, county social services have programs geared toward helping teenagers to make the transition into adulthood. One program that most counties offer to teenagers is the opportunity to sign a volunteer agreement to receive benefits if they are enrolled full-time in a college or vocational school of their choice. Another program called LINKS, assists teenagers between the ages of 13-21 years of age with funds available for transition. They must accept the responsibilities of providing living, employment, clothes, and etc. for themselves.

As previously mentioned, the pastor must plant the seed with his congregation and in return they must work together to recruit families. Their reward will come when the child has been placed in the

lives of a family that will care, love and lead the child to grow in the spirit of our savior.

Our challenge of partnership, as stated in our mission to the Middle Baptist Association under the leadership of Dr. Andre Carr, Sr., was accepted with a unified sincere spirit. We will collectively save our children and actively recruit permanent homes for our children in North Carolina.

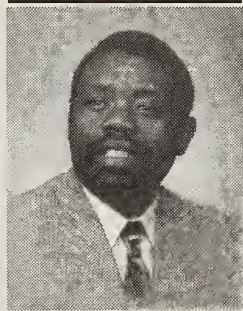
We give special thanks to Reverend George Jackson for his inspirational speech concerning the needs of African American children in the child welfare system. Reverend Jackson is the Pastor of The Citadel of Faith Christian Church in Thomasville. Reverend Jackson has experience in this area working with organizations such as the nationally acclaimed program "One Church, One Child" in South Carolina. He brings a wealth of knowledge concerning recruitment of families in the faith community.

We pray that pastors would plant the seed in their perspective congregations. It is the pastor who can excite or encourage their congregations to open their hearts and minds of making a difference in the life of a child or in some cases sibling groups.

Central Children's Home News

By Reverend Ricky L. Banks

When we say, "I've been going around in circles," it implies a sense of futility or lack of progress. Millions think with anxiety of the turn of the "wheel of fortune," or with dread of the "wheel of fate." Yet, strangely, the circle also symbolizes some of the finest and most essential things



Rev. Ricky Banks

in life. A wedding ring is a circle. We speak of the cycle of the seasons. And the only way our machine age can make progress is to keep the wheels turning.

Doubtless Ezekiel was thinking of any of these as he wrote of his mysterious vision. Yet he was certainly suggesting that the circle of the wheel, instead of representing futility and despair, was a symbol of the glory of God. The wheels

were full of eyes, they moved in every direction. God sees everywhere, he can go anywhere. These turning circles may represent the divine influences in our lives, the glory of God in the midst of His creation.

Every circular movement must also have something to control it. For Ezekiel, the real secret of the wheels was in the fact that "the spirit of the living creature" was in them. Until the divine Spirit dwells in our life, we cannot reach our "high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

The Central Children's Home is pleased to say we are alive and well. We still encourage you to pray and support the work of the home. We thank the pastors and churches who give support and the ones who will be giving support in the days to come. We will be having

Central Children's Home Day Celebration in downtown Oxford, North Carolina on June 21, 2003 at 10:00 am.

Please remember may no circle of thought or wheel of organization turn without thy directing love and wisdom. GOD BLESS.

If you need us please call us at (252) 335-5003 or (252) 339-3438.

*Thought For The Month:
For the Spirit of the living creature was in the wheels.*

Ezekiel 1:20c

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Housing update continued

By Dr. T.B. Everett, Chairman
Housing Committee

I want to continue my update of the GBSC Housing Ministry. Last month I shared the names of several of our sup-



Dr. Thurman
Everett

porters. This month I want to personally thank Mr. Benjamin Ruffin, CEO, of the Ruffin Group, Winston-Salem, NC for helping to make our 2002, William Jefferson Clinton

Banquet a success. Mr. Ruffin coordinated a special reception for the President and others at the home of former Ambassador Jeanette Hyde, of Raleigh, NC. The participants gave \$500.00 per ticket to attend the event.

Mr. Ruffin, under Erskine Bowles, worked with political, corporate and private sponsors. The GBSC Housing Committee also assisted us in making

the activity meaningful. Many sacrifices were made because of the ice disaster the week of December 6, 2002. GBSC President Charles T. Bullock along with Immediate Past GBSC President Dr. John D. Fuller, Dr. C.R. Edwards, and Shaw University Trustee Board Chairman Attorney Willie E. Gary, played a significant role in bringing President Clinton to North Carolina.

Dr. Archie D. Logan, Jr., made his first official appearance since his injury and hospitalization – to God be the Glory. I am grateful to all the GBSC staff, their spouses and friends for what they did: Carol Smith, Mattie Murphy, Portia Brandon, Robert Horne, Dennis Leach, Percy Chase, Eric Harris, Dennis Brown, Nancy High, Darcelle Nelson, Rene Stimac, and everyone!

Thank you so much. If I have not listed any names or recognized any of you who worked please forgive me! Finally, let me THANK my wife, Mrs. Wilhelmenia Everett for accepting me, and the special DIVINE CALL God has placed on my life. Thank you General Baptist Family. ■

More housing news

I am pleased to announce that Mr. Willie Dixon has joined the GBSC Housing Team Ministry and the Housing

Committee. Mr. Dixon began his career as a community planner trainee for the North Carolina Department of Local Affairs in 1971 and has held various positions with the Department of Natural



Mr. Willie Dixon

Resources and Community Development, and the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency since 1981. Positions include: Community

Development Planner I, Assistant Director of Housing Improvement Loan Program; Manager of Special Mortgage Programs; Manager of Loan Production and most recently as a Business Development Officer.

The Business Development Officer responsibilities include promoting agency programs and increasing loan production. The objective is to provide training, information and assistance to businesses, governmental agencies and individual homebuyers. He has helped the Home Ownership Business Group assist first time homebuyers for the State. Mr. Dixon is a member of the GBSC and he adds a significant resource to our work. If you have housing or home ownership questions please call the GBSC Housing Ministry: 800-639-GBSC or 910-371-2196. ■

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06. Dangerous Minds
07. Don't Even Think About It
08. Fired Up By The Holy Ghost
09. Are You Full Of The Stuff
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25. If You Take One Step He'll Take Two
26. Stepping In Your Own Mess
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28. You Can't Touch This
29. Warm In A Cold Situation
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31. What You See Is What You Get
32. What's Faith Got To Do With It
33. You Can't Make It Without God
34. I Just Want To Say... "Thank You Lord"
35. A Heart Like Thine
36. Just A Closer Walk With Thee
37. Give Me A Clean Heart So I Can Serve You
38. What Ever The Problem God Has The Answer
39. Peace – In The Midst Of My Storm
40. I Am On The Right Road, Now!
41. A Good Man In A Bad Situation
42. Good Medicine For A Bad Ailment
43. Stand Up And Testify
44. Bad Boys! What You're Going To Do When He Comes For You
45. Angels Just Keep Watching Over Me
46. Go Ahead! Make My Day
47. A Trip To The Cross
48. Jesus! Jesus! Jesus! He Is Somebody's Preacher

49. On The Day Of Pentecost
50. Jesus Is All That! And A Whole Lot More
51. Muddy Putty In The Potter's Hands
52. When Stress Controls You Jesus Consoles You
53. Black Men And Women, Young And Old, Changing A Generation
54. I Am Black But I Am Somebody
55. Staying Afloat In A Sinking Boat
56. He That Has A Friend Must Show Himself Friendly
57. Victory Is Mine
58. Occupy Till I Come
59. A Man On A Mission / The Borrowed Ax
60. Busy In God's Business
61. That's Just Like Mama
62. He's Alive And I Am Glad About It
63. What The World Needs Now Is Love Sweet Love
64. I Moved From My Old House And My Old Friends
65. I Just Want To Know Why
66. What Do You Do When Life Is Not Fair
67. Why Do Bad Things Happen To Good People
68. What Do You Do When Your Brook Runs Dry
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87. Just Like Daddy
88. I Got Two Wings And The World Can't Do Me No Harm
89. The Prayer Of Jabez
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92. What A Mighty God We Serve
93. When Life Makes You Wonder
94. Fighting The Good Fight

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Shaw University's President to Deliver Keynote Address for Awards Day

Dr. Clarence G. Newsome, Shaw University's 13th President, is the speaker for the University's Annual Awards Day Ceremony on Thursday, April 24 at 11 a.m. in Spaulding Gymnasium. Dr.



Dr. Clarence G. Newsome

Newsome, who was named President on February 13th, assumed his full-time responsibilities this month.

From the very beginning of his presidency, Dr. Newsome exhibited the characteristics of a leader who understands the importance of having a close relationship with students, faculty, and staff. Therefore, the President met privately with the Shaw University community prior to making an official public announcement of his appointment. During that meeting, President Newsome shared, for the first time, the University's new Administrative Motto: Strides to Excellence: Only the Best!

Awards Day will be one of many examples in the future that exhibits the University's Administrative theme. "In the

coming months, the academic accomplishments of Shaw University students will be displayed prominently on campus! Their accomplishments will serve to encourage and inspire their fellow students," said President Newsome.

A native of Ahoskie, North Carolina, President Newsome received his Bachelor of Arts, Master of Divinity, and Doctor of Philosophy degrees from Duke University. After graduating from Duke, Dr. Newsome served on the Duke Divinity School faculty until 1986 when he began his career with the Howard University School of Divinity. For more than 16 years, President Newsome moved up the ranks of the Divinity School serving as Assistant Dean, Associate Dean, and Acting Dean. In 1992, he was officially appointed the School's 14th Dean. Dr. Newsome played a major role in helping to guide the Howard University School of Divinity to an unqualified position of preeminence among theological institutions in the United States and Canada. He was primarily responsible for the School receiving an invitation to join the Big Eight, an organization of theological school development officers from such institutions as Harvard, Yale, University of Chicago and Duke. Additionally, he successfully guided the School through two ten-year reaccredita-

tion reviews, in 1992 and 2002. Also, under Dr. Newsome's leadership, the first Office of Student Services and the first Office of Institutional Advancement and Development were created. Between 1992 and 1995 the School won four major awards from the University's Academic Affairs Division for fund raising and alumni support. In addition, since 1992, registration increased by 59% and fund raising increased by approximately 100%.

Awards Day recognizes achievements made in community service and academic performance. Some honors noted will be

Presidential Scholar recipients, UNCF Scholars, A. J. Fletcher Award recipient(s), and NASA Research Scholars. Other categories saluting scholarship are the Alpha Omicron Chapter of Alpha Kappa Mu, North Carolina Eta Chapter of Alpha Chi National Honor Society, Pinnacle Scholarship Award and University Scholars. Students with a grade point average of 4.00 - 3.75 will receive Gold Medal; also, Silver, Bronze, and honor pins will be given to students with 3.50 - 3.75, 3.25 - 3.49, 3.00 - 3.24, respectively.

Shaw University Students to Compete In the All-Star Challenge

The Shaw University 2003 HONDA Campus All Star Challenge (HCASC) Team is one of 64 groups traveling to Orlando, FL for the National HONDA Campus All-Star Challenge Competition which was held on Thursday, March 27 through Monday, March 31.

The Challenge is the first academic competition of its kind. Students at America's Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) have the opportunity to compete in a profitable battle of wits. Shaw University Director of Alumni Relations and National HONDA Campus All-Star Volunteer, Ms. Reekitta Grimes describes a major benefit of the program. "At each level of competition each team walks away with grant

dollars for their school." Students 'play' to win a grand total of \$300,000 in grant money for their respective colleges and universities.

Honors Program Director and Shaw's HCASC Coach, Dr. Kimberly Whitehead, looks forward to the competition. "This is my first year as the HONDA Coach and I am excited about the opportunity to work with the team. We have been working hard to prepare for the competition in Orlando and will do our best to bring home the top prize," said Dr. Whitehead.

The American Honda Motors Corporation has served as the sponsor of this annual competition, consecutively for 14 years.

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Fellowship Repass at the Ministers' Conference



Dr. Leonzo Lynch

All members of the General Baptist State Convention who will be attending the 89th Hampton Minister's conference are invited to share in a Fellowship Repass sponsored by Shaw

University Divinity School. The fellowship will take place June 3rd at 9:30 pm, Holiday Inn Hampton Hotel & Conference Center, 757-838-0200 following the Tuesday evening sermon by the Conference Preacher. Come and share with us, greet the Divinity School faculty and staff as well as the officers and members of the General Baptist State Convention.

919-546-8569

"Strides to Excellence: Only the Best!"

Shaw University Receives More Than \$100,000

Shaw University recently received \$117,272 from the Beryl O'Kelly Brooks Charitable Remainder Trust to establish the Berry O'Kelly Memorial Endowed Scholarship. The late Mrs. Brooks, who was born in 1929 in Raleigh, has been called a "civil rights trailblazer". Her father, the late Berry O'Kelly, was a civic leader and resident of Method, a small Black settlement founded by former slaves on the western outskirts of Raleigh. The former Berry O'Kelly High School in Method, which was the state's first Black accredited high school, was named in O'Kelly's honor. It was closed in 1967 and is now a Raleigh park. Only the gymnasium is still standing. Mr. O'Kelly was known for hauling, at his own expense, young children from Apex and Holly Springs to attend the school. It was also at O'Kelly High School where Mrs. Brooks earned her diploma and where she later returned for her first teaching job.

Mrs. Brooks earned her bachelor's degree from Hampton University, her master's degree at Columbia University and a teaching credential at the University of Southern California. She was married to Joe Brooks, now deceased, in 1953. After living in Japan and Chicago, the couple settled in Long Beach, CA, in 1958.

Mrs. Brooks was a lifelong member of the Long Beach Chapter of the NAACP, and she founded the Theta

Alpha Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Inc. and the Harbor area chapter of The Links Inc. - of which she was a charter member and president. She was one of the original board members of the Long Beach Public Library Foundation, where she served as advisory committee member until her death. She was also a member of the Long Beach Museum of Art Foundation where she increased membership from under 1,000 to close to 1,700. According to Susan Reeder, director of developing for the museum, "She (Mrs. Brooks) worked very hard until the end. She was always pioneering and breaking new ground. She was very humanistic in her values and in her approach to life."

The Berry O'Kelly Memorial Endowed Scholarship is designated for students who are majoring in Business, Economics, or Accounting. The purpose of the scholarship is to train deserving students for careers as entrepreneurs. During the student's third year of study, he/she is required to present a plan for establishing a business, including the financial projections for running a profitable operation in honor of Mr. O'Kelly.

The scholarship is based on need for a deserving student from North Carolina with preference given to students who are the first in their families to attend college and Wake County residents. The recipient must also maintain a "B" grade point average.

Shaw University to Hold H. B. Caple Repertory Series

Shaw University's Department of Visual and Performing Arts presents The H. B. Caple Repertory Series, a program that showcases the original playwriting, directing and acting skills of Theatre students, on April 10 through April 12 at 7:00 p.m. in the Willie E. Gary Student Center Ballroom.

The series, which has been presented at Shaw University for over two decades, originated with the tenure of the late Dr. H. B. Caple, former Theatre Professor, and his wife, Dr. Patricia Caple, who also worked in the Theatre Department as a professor. Dr. Caple's instructives were founded on the principles of consistent practice and high quality.

Shaw University Theatre Instructor and H. B. Caple Series Adviser, Mr.

Kenneth Hinton, comments that attendees should expect professional-level entertainment from students. "This is an event that showcases the student talent of both Theatre and Non-Theatre majors who have excellent acting and singing abilities in the performance arts."

The plays to be performed are: "Dear Mama", authored and directed by Music and Theatre major, Jay DeVaughn; and "Fallen Angel", by Eloise Beasley, directed by Theatre major, Ricky Bynum. Mass Communication and Theatre major, Christi Stancil is the assistant director.

There will be two one-woman shows performed by Music and Theatre major, Brandi Hancock. For more information, please call (919)

U.S. Congressman Bob Etheridge will be the Speaker for Shaw University's Commencement Ceremony on Sat., May 10, 2003 at 11:00 a.m. To be held at Raleigh Conference and Convention Center.

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Contact:

Rosalind Polston

Project Manager, Domestic Abuse and Violence Prevention
Shaw University Divinity School

919-667-9637

email: rpolston@shawu.edu



SAVE THE DATE!

The Shaw University Divinity School has scheduled the following upcoming Conferences:

- Non-Traditional Theological Conference. . . . July 10-12, 2003
- Church Leadership Conference July 26, 2003
- Women's Conference August 9, 2003

★All Pastors, Ministers, Deacons, Trustees and Laity would benefit from these conferences.

The Shaw University Divinity School Alumni Association
will be holding its

Annual Hampton Ministers' Conference Luncheon

Wednesday, June 4 from 1-3 pm
at the

Holiday Inn Hotel and Conference Center
1815 West Mercury Blvd.
Hampton, Virginia

All alumni and friends are welcome.

Come out and get the latest update on what's happening at the Divinity School.

A Kingdom Mentality: Time to Get Real

By Rev. Anthonette Wright
Recording Secretary/Vice Chairperson
Program Committee GBSC Evangelism Ministry



Rev. Anthonette Wright

Calling all Christians: Pastors, Preachers, Ministers, Evangelists, Apostles, Bishops, Elders, Missionaries, Ushers, Choir Members, Trustees, Deacons, Deaconesses

and . . . The time is now to develop a Kingdom Mentality. It is time to get real. For the Kingdom of God is at hand, Christ is coming back in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye. We do not have time to waste. Time out for sloughfulness, procrastination and a 'wait-a-minute' attitude. Time to get your mind set for real Evangelism.

This is the attitude of the GBSC Evangelism Ministry. We are on the move for God. Check out what's happening. Forsyth County will never be the same. Why? Glad you asked. The GBSC Evangelism Ministry celebrated Christ by witnessing to lost souls during

the Evangelism Conference April 8-11 in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. It was a miraculous week. On Tuesday, the Evangelism

Ministry opened with intercessory prayer – prayers that opened the doors to restoration, reconciliation and regeneration. Next, Dr. Sir Walter

Mack, Jr. helped us to announce the Kingdom of God with "Evangelism for Kingdom Enhancement". Featured guest lecturer Dr. Joseph W. Ratliff, Pastor of the Brentwood Baptist Church in Houston, Texas challenged the church – "At What Price Growth". Then along came featured guest preacher Dr. Harold A. Carter, Pastor of the New Shiloh Baptist Church in Baltimore, Maryland who preached a "Word" for the house each night to encourage the saints in the work of Evangelism. "Look Up" for "The Lord Reigneth". The Lord is our model; take a look at Emmanuel – "A Day & a Night in the Ministry of Jesus". Then musical guest and psalmist Luther Barnes led the new GBSC Statewide Mass Choir in songs of glory and praise unto the Lord.

Not only were we equipped for the task but we took hold of the task and

ran with it. For the Bible says to *Go ye therefore, teach all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son and the*

"We should be less concerned about making churches full of people and more concerned about making people full of God."

(C. Kirk Hadaway and David Roozen)

Holy Ghost.

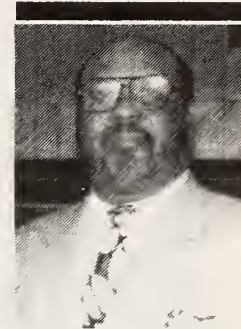
Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen. The

Evangelism Ministry went out into the highways and byways and compelled the homeless community to worship and fellowship. Over 150 people were fed manna from God as well as physical food for the body. Many groups and agencies were on site to assist and to help move them from Lord Have Mercy to Thank You Jesus. From that fellowship fourteen souls were saved. Nine of those fourteen were baptized, extended the right-hand of fellowship and connected with local churches to support them in their new Christian walk. But that is not the end of the story. We went into the Forsyth County Prison announcing the Kingdom of God. Chaplain Stillwell gave us a rich word and helped with a plan to keep Jesus before men and women – before, after and during their incarceration. Then all praises to God for Youth Evangelism Night, where youth from all over North

Carolina came and got their praise on. Youth praise teams, choirs, dance teams and steppers worshipped God. Twenty-seven more souls were brought into the Kingdom. Then, my five year-old niece, Destinee' Lee Cannady declared she wanted the Lord to dwell in her heart. So she confessed with her mouth the Lord Jesus Christ and believes in her heart that God has raised him from the dead. She is saved. We cry Hallelujah and All Praise Be to God for 42 new souls in the Kingdom!

Wish you could have been there to witness it for yourself. But just in case you didn't, contact me for information on how you can get the tape! Look out for the GBSC Evangelism Ministry in your area to help you disciple souls into the Kingdom of God.

We encourage you to announce the Kingdom of God and let the world know that Heaven is still in business. ■



Dr. Robert McGowens

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MBC Chairman & CEO Willie E. Gary Speaks at Tuskegee Airmen Tribute

Submitted by Carol J. Smith, Managing Editor

Prominent attorney and cable television executive Willie E. Gary was the



Carol J. Smith

keynote speaker at the Tuskegee Airmen 60th Anniversary Tribute dinner to raise money for scholarships in Orlando, FL. Gary spoke to an audience that included 15 members of the Tuskegee Airmen, America's first Black Military Aviators who became one of the most celebrated fighter combat groups in World War II, who were honored at the event at the Orlando Renaissance Airport Hotel.

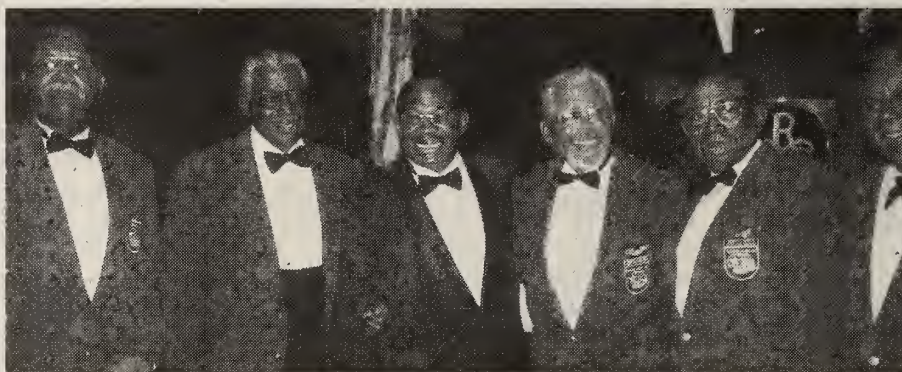
"It is an honor to be a part of such a worthwhile event such as this," Gary said. "To be in the same room with

these men who have honored and distinguished themselves through the service they performed for their country during a time when they faced racism and bigotry at home and overseas, was a true honor for me. Normally, I try to inspire others when I speak, but tonight I was inspired just to be in their presence."

Gary, born to sharecroppers, has overcome a lifetime of obstacles to become one of this nation's most successful trial attorneys. In addition, he is now the chairman & CEO of the Major Broadcasting Cable Network (MBC), the nation's only African American owned and operated 24-hour cable TV network, as well as MBC News, a 24-hour cable news network devoted to

African American news and issues.

Gary, known in legal circles as The Giant Killer, is best known for taking on some of America's most powerful corporate giants and winning billions of dollars in verdicts and settlements on behalf of his clients. In 1995, he won a \$500



million verdict – one of the highest jury verdicts ever – against a Canadian funeral home company. In 2000, he won a \$240 million verdict against Disney when a jury found Disney stole the idea for its

sports complex from Gary's clients. In 2001, a jury awarded Gary a \$139 million verdict from Anheuser-Busch on behalf of the family of baseball great Roger Maris. In addition, Gary has negotiated settlements of \$205 million, \$185 million and \$175 million for his clients.

In 1994, Gary and his wife, Gloria, founded The Gary Foundation to provide college scholarships and educational support to at-risk students, who wish to attend college. The Gary's have also donated millions of dollars to Historically Black Colleges and

Universities through their foundation – including an astonishing \$10 million to their alma mater Shaw University in Raleigh, N.C.

GBI Established in Fayetteville

Grace Missionary Baptist Church, a newly incorporated beloved community in Fayetteville, has established The Grace Baptist Institute for Leadership Development (GBI) in partnership with The Shaw University Divinity School.

GBI is a Continuing Education Unit (CEU) certificate ministry in Christian religious studies whose mission is to offer professional instruction to clergy and laypersons of all denominations, ethnicity and perspectives that will assist them in shaping their ministerial identity, which entails faithful and effective Christian leadership and stewardship.

GBI goals are to offer opportunities for learning and for the practice of ministry that will enable individuals to (1) increase their knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith and its role in the world; (2) enhance their ability, gifts and talents; (3) become empowered as they strive to be effective Christian stewards of God's trust; and (4) become effective church leaders in their beloved communities and in life's marketplaces.

Participation in GBI is not restricted by previous educational attainment—students may or may not have a degree(s). Any individual who is committed to

developing her or his God-given abilities and potential to the fullest and becoming an effective Christian steward may enroll.

GBI offers a Basic Program/Certificate in Christian Religious Studies and an Advanced Program/Advanced Certificate in Christian Religious Studies.

Upon completion of the Basic Program individuals will be able to: (1) demonstrate a better understanding of primary theological and biblical postures; (2) demonstrate a better understanding of the church, its mission of being a sign of God's presence in the world and its ministry, which is manifested in a diversity of forms; (3) perform more effectively and efficiently in various church ministries; and (4) matriculate into the Advanced Program. Upon completion of the Advanced Program individuals will be able to better serve the church in a specific leadership area of ministry.

Students must complete twenty courses, 16 core courses and 4 electives for a Certificate in Christian Religious Studies. Students must complete eight courses in one of eight areas of ministry, 6 core courses which includes a two-session practice of ministry, and 2 electives for an Advanced Certificate in Christian Religious Studies. The Certificate in Christian Religious Studies is a pre-requisite for an advanced certificate.

The Advanced Program allows students to work in specific ministries. Eight areas have been chosen as options—

Caregiving, Christian Education, Church Office Administration, Evangelism, Group Leadership, Music, Pastoral Care and Proclamation (Kerygma). The Program provides opportunities for greater depth of study and application for students with gifts in and a passion for a particular area of ministry, as well as for students who want additional study and hands-on experience in the church and its various forms of ministry.

The Shaw University Divinity School is the CEU granting institution for GBI graduates. The Divinity school and Grace Baptist award certificates and advanced certificates in Christian Religious Studies, to students who complete prescribed programs, during GBI's certification ceremony which is held the third Sunday in May.

Seminars and workshops will be offered on Friday evenings and Saturday mornings to the community-at-large. Learning experiences will give critical insight and discussion on economic, ethical, religious, social, and political issues facing the church as well as address practical ministry topics. Topics and contact hours will vary from session to session. CEUs are not granted for contact hours. However, Certificates of Achievement are awarded to participants during GBI's Christian Religious Studies Certification Ceremony.

GBI will host a bi-annual Convocation and Pastors' School. The convocation endeavor with several churches that brings national and local preachers and teachers together with statewide cler-

gy, laypersons and GBI students and faculty for a series of colloquia, sermons and kononia. The series is designed to enhance the effective practice of ministry. The 2004 convocation will be held May 21-23.

The academic year consists of four eight-week sessions and begins the third week in September and ends the second week in May. Session I—September-November. Session II—November-January. Session III—January-March. Session IV—March-May. There will also be occasional summer sessions.

The first GBI academic session will begin Monday, May 19, 2003 with the following courses of instruction and schedule: Core Requirements: 6:30-7:45 p.m. M/W - Understanding the Church and Her Ministries, General Introduction to the Old Testament. 10:00-11:15 a.m. and 6:00-7:15 p.m. T/Th - General Introduction to the New Testament. Elective: 9:00-11:30 a.m. Sat. Introduction to Preaching. Classes temporarily held at Shaw University's Fayetteville CAPE site, 603B Country Club Drive.

GBI faculty members are experienced teachers who hold graduate degrees from accredited seminaries and universities. Some also hold doctoral degrees from accredited institutions.

Fees and Tuition: Application Processing - \$15.00. Registration Per Session - \$15.00. Tuition Per Course - \$150.00, textbooks are not included.

For application and registration forms, catalogue or information please call Dr. Gloria Gerald at 910.433.2725.

Top Ten consumer Complaints in North Carolina

By Attorney General Roy Cooper

Last year, 16,880 consumers who had been the victim of frauds, scams or bad deals filed written complaints with my Consumer Protection Division, an increase of 9 percent over 2001. With the help of my consumer protection team, I've compiled a list of the top ten consumer complaints of 2002. I'll count down complaints and then explain how consumers can get help. By learning about the most common consumer pitfalls, you may be able to make sure you don't become a victim yourself.

10. Mail Order: In 2002, 408 consumers complained about problems with products ordered by mail. Consumers complain about merchandise that arrives late, is damaged or never arrives at all. We also hear from consumers who have trouble returning mail ordered items for a refund.

9. Television Service: 455 consumers reported cable or satellite television troubles. We received several complaints about promised rebates that never materialized, hidden fees in bills, and bad service.

8. Health Care: 620 consumers filed complaints about doctors, dentists, hospitals, pharmacies, opticians, nursing homes, health products and services. Consumers often have problems with medical billing practices or have trouble getting copies of their medical records. Complaints about health insurance are also common. For help with health insurance issues such as grievances, appeals, and external reviews, consumers can call my new Managed Care Patient Assistance Program at (919) 733-MCPA (toll-free in North Carolina (866) 867-MCPA) or email MCPA@mail.jus.state.nc.us.

7. Internet Services and Shopping: We received 722 Internet-related complaints from consumers in 2002. In many cases, consumers are dissatisfied with

their service or are surprised to see their long distance telephone bills rise sharply because of Internet dial-up charges. We've also seen an increase in complaints from consumers who ordered products via the web or participated in online auctions but never received their promised merchandise.

6. Furniture Sales: 846 consumers complained to my office about furniture sales practices. The majority of complaints come from out-of-state consumers who placed orders with North Carolina retailers by telephone. Consumers often complain that they received the wrong item of furniture, a damaged or defective item, or never received their item at all. Many problems stem from furniture companies closing shop without filling customers' orders.

5. Telemarketing Fraud and Privacy: A total of 1,094 consumers filed complaints concerning telemarketing. The Federal Trade Commission estimates that fraudulent telemarketers scam as much as \$40 billion a year from unsuspecting U.S. consumers. Some of the most prevalent and successful telemarketing schemes involve bogus international lottery tickets, advance fee loans, credit card or identity theft protection, and phony prizes or sweepstakes. Other consumers complain about annoying telemarketers who refuse to honor consumers' requests to stop calling.

4. Debt Collection: 1,273 consumers filed complaints about debt collectors. Consumers regularly call with stories about how they were treated on the telephone or how frequently they were contacted about a debt. Debt collectors are not allowed to harass debtors, nor may they use profane language or threats of violence when trying to collect a debt.

3. Telecommunications: 1,550 consumers complained about their telephone, pager or cell phone service. The majority

have problems with wireless telephone service. Other common complaints included slamming, when a consumer's telephone carrier is changed without their consent, and cramming, when a company tries to sneak unauthorized charges onto a consumer's phone bill.

2. Automobile Repairs, Towing and Purchases: We received 1,780 complaints from consumers who had problems with car repair, towing and new and used purchases. The most common complaints are pricing, improper diagnosis, unauthorized repairs, failure to honor warranties, and slow repair jobs. Consumers also often complain about harassment from towing companies, and we receive numerous lemon law complaints from consumers who are dissatisfied with their new car.

1. Lenders/Creditors: 2,224 consumers complained to us about lenders and creditors. Complaints about credit vary greatly and include problems with mortgage lenders, banks, loan brokers, payday lenders, check cashing services, credit unions, refund anticipation loans,

savings and loans, and pawn brokers. Consumers' complaints usually involve high interest rates, loan payment changes due to late or missed payments, adjustable rate mortgages, prepayment penalties and loan fees.

If any of these problems sound familiar, or if you have a problem that didn't make the top ten, contact my Consumer Protection office at (919) 716-6000. Consumers can get advice from our specialists over the phone and can also file a written complaint so that we can try to resolve the situation through mediation. In cases where there is a pattern of illegal business practices, we may also take action to enforce the law on behalf of all consumers.

Attorney General Roy Cooper and his staff are on the lookout for scams that seek to rob unsuspecting North Carolinians. We are here to be of service when you need us at (919) 716-6000, but through consumer education efforts like these columns we hope to help consumers avoid problems from the start.

Former Shaw Divinity Student Ordained

Reverend Bonnie Ruth Laney appeared successfully before an Ordaining Council at the Mount Zion Baptist Church in Winston-Salem, NC, Thursday, Feb. 20, 2003, and Reverend Laney became an ordained minister. Laney was accompanied by her husband, E. Charles Laney, Sr. during the ceremony.



Minister Bonnie Ruth Laney

Laney delivered her first sermon August 15, 1999, at Mount Zion Baptist Church, where she was licensed to preach by Mount Zion Baptist Church. Laney was the first female licensed to preach in the 114th year history of the church. Dr. Serenus T. Chum, Sr., is the pastor of Mount Zion Baptist Church.

Rev. Laney is a native of Whiteville, NC. She is the daughter of Mr. Joseph C. Troy, Sr. and Willie Belle Alford Troy. Laney received her public education in Whiteville and in New York City. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Sociology at Salem College and a Master of Divinity degree from Shaw University Divinity School May 11, 2002, where she graduated summa cum laude and was recognized as Who's Who among American

Colleges and Universities.

At Mount Zion, Laney is an assistant to the pastor, a missionary, a Sunday school and a vacation Bible school teacher. In the community she is employed as executive director of Alpha Pregnancy Support, Inc. of Lexington. Laney is the Chairman of the Women's Auxiliary at the Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Convention.

Dr. Chum, pastor of Mount Zion was the organizer and moderator of the Ordination Council, and he presided at the Ordination ceremony. He was assisted by Dr. Paul Lowe, Moderator of the Rowan Baptist Association, who conducted the examination; Dr. Reuben Gilliam of the National and Southern Baptist Conventions delivered the prayer; Dr. J. Ray Butler of the N. C. State General Convention delivered the Ordination address; Dr. L. L. Travis, Shaw University Divinity School, was the presenter of the Bible; Dr. Joseph Jones of the Progressive National Convention presented the hymnal; and Dr. J. T. Walker of the High Point Regional Association delivered the charge to the candidate. All council members participated in the laying on of hands.

Before Laney made remarks and delivered the Benediction, she received the Ordination Certificate presentations from H. L. Shaw, church clerk, and presentations from deacons A. Richardson and Amber O'Neal.

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J.J. JOHNSON CAMP

J.J. JOHNSON BAPTIST ASSEMBLY INFORMATION

The Site:

The J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly is a tract of land comprising seventy-five (75) or more acres, much of which is covered with a mixture of North Carolina Pine, red and white oak trees. The location of the Baptist Assembly is on more than 75 rolling acres in Laurel Hill, North Carolina in Scotland County.

In 1967, approximately two-thirds of the acreage was donated by Dr. and Mrs. Joy J. Johnson and their daughter, Deborah (Mrs. Alexander Killiens). Additional acres were purchased by the Woman's Convention and General Baptist State Convention.

Our Purpose:

The purpose of the J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly in Laurel Hill is to provide a setting that is Christian in its atmosphere and is conducive to learning, worship, and meeting the needs of all individuals whom we serve. It seeks to provide opportunities for everyone to learn habits of good citizenship, and it provides at the same time opportunities to reach a maximum potential for Christian fellowship and fun experiences through democratic ideals and living.

The facility exists for the exclusive use by religious groups and/or organizations with similar aims regardless of ethnic origin.

Meeting Facilities:

At the J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly, there are various meeting facilities available. Listed below are the seating capacity (theater style) and lodging:

♦ Rowan Association Chapel	Seating Capacity: 300-400
♦ Home Lodge	Seating Capacity: 20-25, Sleeps 12
♦ Alston Lodge	Seating Capacity: 100, Sleeps 64
♦ Lumber Bridge Association Lodge	Seating Capacity: 100, Sleeps 64
♦ Brown Assembly Dining Hall	Seating Capacity: 200
(Cafeteria Style)	

Individuals should bring their own linen, blankets, soap and other toiletries for the lodging facilities.

"And gathered them out of the lands, from the east, and from the west, from the north, and from the south." Psalm 107:3

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AIL, P.O. BOX 18825, RALEIGH, NC 27619-8825

Current Annual Events

During the course of the year, the Conventional Family sponsors different ministries at the J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly. Among these are the following:

- ♦ Vacation Bible School (GBSC) – March
- ♦ Ministers' Wives Retreat (WBSC) – May
- ♦ Laymen's League Mini-Skills Retreat (GBSC) – May
- ♦ Leadership Training Conference (GBSC) – June
- ♦ Youth Bible Camp (WBSC) – June
- ♦ Laymen's League Boy's Summer Retreat (GBSC) – July
- ♦ Laymen's League Scouting Jamboree (GBSC) – August
- ♦ Laymen's League Men's Retreat (GBSC) – September
- ♦ North Carolina Branch of the 9th and 10th Calvary (Buffalo Soldiers) – October
- ♦ Usher's Retreat/Workshop (GBSC) – November
- ♦ Laymen's League Planning Session – December

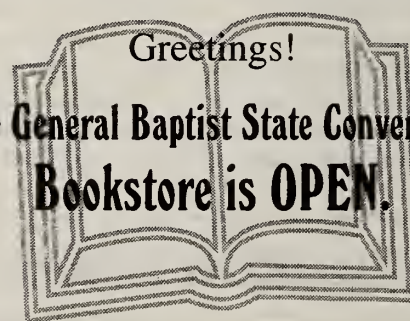
The campus is available year round for meetings, weddings, banquets, family reunions, and other activities. Contact Rev. Eric Harris for the policies and procedures regarding each type of event.

Send Applications & Funds to:
General Baptist State Convention
J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly
603 S. Wilmington Street
Raleigh, NC 27601

(Make checks payable to J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly)

Sources: "1974" Brochure and the J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly Guide And Handbook (1985).

General Baptist Bookstore Update



Order your Vacation Bible School materials today!

We are having a clearance and liquidation sale. The bookstore will continue to carry GBSC publications; recommended books by our auxiliaries and books by GBSC authors. The Ministers Council has recommended the following book: *What The Bible Says To The Minister - The Minister's Personal Handbook*, \$17.00 including tax. Also we have special copies of the *GBSC Jubilee Bible*, \$39.95 and *The History of the GBSC - The Splended Enterprise*, Dr. W.B. Lewis, Dr. John Fleming and Dr. C.R. Trotter, \$32.95.

Call today for clearance books and to place your orders,
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CLASSIFIEDS

(PLEASE CONTACT CHURCHES FOR SPECIFIC QUALIFICATIONS SOME REQUIRE 3 OR MORE YEARS PASTORAL EXPERIENCE, SEMINARY TRAINING, MISSIONARY BAPTIST ORDINATION, MUSICAL SKILLS) (FOR SPECIFIC CHURCH QUALIFICATIONS CONTACT THE PULPIT COMMITTEE)

PASTORS

ORANGE GROVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH – Durham, NC is currently accepting resumes for the position of Pastor. Orange Grove is a community-based church with a rich heritage. The church will celebrate its one hundred nineteenth anniversary in 2003. Regular worship services are held every Sunday at 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. We

are affiliated with the East Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Association and the General Baptist State convention. *The successful candidate must have the following minimum qualifications but not limited to:*

- Must be a born again Christian, divinely called, chosen by God, and be licensed/ordained.
- Must be qualified to grow in spirit/character, exemplifying temperance, sensibility, hospitality and gentleness, not being abusive, greedy or arrogant.
- Must be a lover of goodness, upright, self-controlled, and able to hold firm to the sure Word as taught.
- Must be kindly to everyone, teach, and preach the Gospel.
- Must **NOT** be a novice (new convert), false prophet, a person to boast, not one given to trickery but one who

demonstrates true apostleship.

- Must exemplify strong Christian character, live a Christian life (private & public), and have strong, positive family values.

- Must have a minimum of a Bachelor's degree and appropriate verifiable divinity Christian education or training.

- Must be willing to continue to grow in experience to improve skills, effectiveness and to master new, complex and demanding opportunities.

- Must be qualified to grow in grace.

- Must be an ordained minister with a minimum of five (5) years pastoral experience in a Baptist Church.

- Must provide positive spiritual leadership to the administrative staff, the total congregation and church programs.

- Must have leadership experience including supervision, counseling, evaluating and discipline, if necessary.

- Must possess effective oral and written communication skills easily understood by all age groups.

- Must be financially stable.

Persons meeting these qualifications should send their resumes to the Pulpit Selection Committee, Orange Grove Missionary Baptist Church, 505 East

End Avenue, Durham, NC 27703. Resumes will be accepted with a postmark no later than May 30, 2003. **Resumes only. No phone calls or emails.**

CHAPEL HILL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH – Autryville, NC: seeks a pastor to serve as its spiritual leader, teacher, counselor, and administrator. Some requirements are as followed:

- Must be born-again as evidenced by character and dedication
- Licensed, ordained Baptist minister
- Ability to preach/teach and have administrative skills
- Five years of pastoral experience preferred
- Some theological courses completed, and continuing
- Knowledge of Baptist doctrine, policies and procedures
- A resume, letter of interest, including a vision statement of their ministry
- Legible copies of ministerial license and ordination certification
- References: Include name, address and phone number, (1) Family reference, (1) Business reference, (1) Professional reference and (2) references from pastors familiar with your character and min-

Richard H. Moore
State Treasurer

Dr. Archie Logan, Jr.
Executive Secretary-Treasurer
General Baptist State Convention

Dear Pastor,

The General Baptist State Convention joins Richard H. Moore, State Treasurer, in encouraging your Association and church to identify your unclaimed property. As your State Treasurer and Executive Secretary Treasurer of the General Baptist State Convention, the two of us serve important roles in North Carolina. It is for this reason we want to make you aware of a program that may benefit both your church and its members.

The North Carolina Department of State Treasurer is responsible for administering the "Escheat and Unclaimed Property Program". The purpose of this program is simple; when a company or financial institution is holding money that belongs to a North Carolina resident and that individual cannot be located, the company is required by law to turn the money over to the Department of State Treasurer, where it is held until the rightful owner claims it. This "unclaimed cash" is often the result of forgotten utility deposits, bank accounts, stocks that were purchased, and checks that have not been cashed. Currently, the North Carolina Department of State Treasurer is holding over \$350 million in unclaimed cash that belongs to 1.4 million people and organizations.

It is important that as much of this money as possible gets returned to the rightful owners. In order to do that, we need your help. We hope that you can assist us in getting the word out about this program by letting your church members know it is there and making them aware of how they can check to see if they may be owed money.

The easiest way to find out if your name is on the Unclaimed Property list is to log onto the North Carolina Department of State Treasurer website at www.treasurer.state.nc.us. You then click on the "Unclaimed Property Program" link to get to a page where you can type in your name. We suggest not only checking your name with the proper spelling, but try variations on the spelling of your name, as well. Sometimes the reason money does not get to an individual is because the company sending it has the wrong address or incorrect spelling of the person's name.

It is also important to know that claiming your money through the Department of State Treasurer is completely free. You should be aware that there are services that DO charge a fee to locate any unclaimed funds that may be owed to you. It is not necessary to use these services or to pay a fee to have your money returned. You can claim your money directly from the Department of State Treasurer at no cost.

We believe sharing information regarding the "Unclaimed Property Program" with your church members is a valuable service. Not only will this information help your members to claim any money that they may be owed, but it will also be helpful to your communities as the word travels to relatives, friends and neighbors of your members. We also suggest you check the name of your church to see if money is owed to it. There are thousands of businesses and organizations that have unclaimed cash, and your church may be one of them.

We appreciate your assistance in helping us to make the citizens of North Carolina aware of this program, and look forward to working with you to return as much money as possible to your church members. The General Baptist Foundation is also available to assist you in locating your money at no cost; simply call the Foundation toll free at 1-866-858-7847 or log on to the General Baptist State Convention's website at www.GBSC.org, then click on the [N.C. Department of State Treasurer](http://www.GBSC.org) link to access the "Unclaimed Property Program".

Sincerely,

Richard H. Moore
State Treasurer

Dr. Archie Logan, Jr.
Executive Secretary-Treasurer
General Baptist State Convention

PULPIT VACANCY NEW LIGHT MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH HALLSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA

NEW LIGHT MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH IS NOW ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR A PASTOR. OUR WORSHIP SERVICES ARE EACH SUNDAY OF THE MONTH.

QUALIFICATIONS:

Must be a licensed ordained Missionary Baptist Minister.

- Full of Holy Ghost. Led by the Spirit of God in all matters.
- Full of wisdom, knowledge and understand the office of Pastor and performs it according to the scriptures and the needs of the church.
- Must be Association minded.
- Prefer having experience as a Pastor.
- The husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behavior.
- One that rules his own house, having a good report.
- Knows the doctrine of a Missionary Baptist Church
- Must attend meetings of different auxiliaries in the church to become familiar with the organizations, whenever possible.
- Must visit the sick and shut-in when possible.
- Must attempt to become involved with the various programs that the church participates in outside the home church calendar.

Send resumes and inquiries to:

Deacon Kenneth Bracey
1025 Red Bug Rd.
Hallsboro, North Carolina 28442
910-646-4467

CLASSIFIEDS

istry

• Other criteria will be discussed during interviews

Please mail any applications/resumes and/or related material to:

Chapel Hill Missionary Baptist Church
Attn: Deacon Bobby R. McAllister
1450 Sivertsen Road
PO Box 434
Autryville, NC 28318-8064
Ph.: (910) 567-2961

MILL NECK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH - Como, NC: currently accepting applications for a Pastor with strong Missionary Baptist roots. We are affiliated with the West Roanoke Missionary Baptist Association and the General Baptist State convention. *Interested applicants should provide a resume to:* Carolyn M. Farrow, Secretary, Pastor Search Committee, Mill Neck Missionary Baptist Church, P.O. Box 68, Mill Neck Rd., Como, NC 27818.

HILL STREET BAPTIST CHURCH - Asheville, NC: accepting applications

for a spirit-filled leader. Our Pastor, Dr. Nilous M. Avery, with 51 years of continued, dedicated service, recently retired. The congregation of the Hill Street Baptist Church, Asheville, NC is now ready to receive resumes. We pray for applicants who:

- are born again
- are divinely called and ordained (*1 Timothy 3:1-7*)
- are spiritually mature
- are gifted in preaching and teaching the Word of God to all ages
- have a vision for the future of the church
- are experienced in Christian counseling, mediation and administration
- have a college degree and seminary training but will consider a combination of education and experience.

Titus 1:9 says: "holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both the exhort and to convince the gainsayers." It is important to have a leader who can effectively preach the Word of God, but it is even more important to have one who lives out God's Word and is an example for others to follow.

Mail resumes & serious inquiries to: Pastor Search Team, Hill Street Baptist Church, P.O. Box 327, Asheville, NC 28802. Deadline for resumes is March 15, 2003. "The Mission of the Hill Street Baptist Church through the power of God's grace, is to witness, to serve and to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ to all people."

BUNCOMBE BAPTIST CHURCH - Lexington, NC: accepting resumes from interested licensed ordained Missionary Baptist ministers.

Qualifications:

- Born again Christian
- Concerned with spiritual and intellectual growth of the church
- Ability to preach and teach God's Word
- Must be willing to teach and follow the Baptist Doctrines, policies and practices
- Ability to work with all age groups in the church
- Ability to carry out administrative, leadership and counseling duties
- Work cooperatively with church officials
- Family and community oriented

- Teach Bible Study and attend Sunday School and prayer meetings
- Theological and/or Seminary training preferred
- Good communications skills

• Must be a good role model of moral and ethical conduct

Please send resumes and inquiries to: Buncombe Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1533, Lexington, NC 27293.

GUILDFIELD M.B. CHURCH - New Bern, NC: currently accepting applications for a Pastor. Guildfield M.B. Church is an established church with a rich heritage in Eastern North Carolina. It is a growing congregation with active ministries focusing on the youth, senior citizens, the musical department, and Christian Education activities. Regular worship services are held every Sunday morning at 11:00 a.m. The church has membership in the Old Eastern Missionary Baptist Association.

PASTORAL DUTIES

- Serve as Senior Pastor and preach the Gospel

State License No. 6276

55 Years of Experience

JONES, Gen. Contractor, THOMAS L.

Post Office Box 241 - Laurinburg, N.C. 28353

PHONE 910-277-0274

"When Building Is Done Better, We'll Do It"

To Minister, Trustee and Church Members,
Dear Christian Leader and Friends,

It is my hope that I will be a help to you in your next building project. Although you may not have a plan that exactly fits your needs, I may help you find a starting point to develop your own plan.

I have built and designed more than 45 churches in my 55 years of general contracting.

Church building should be compatible with their neighborhoods. The quality of construction, design, and landscaping should create a meaningful setting which is an inspiration to its members and the community.

When you consult with me, my first step is a detailed inquiry of the various programs at your church. This enables me to understand the main focus of your ministry and it helps you understand my services. Our first meeting is to get acquainted and find out your needs.

The second step is providing a master plan of your entire church property and renderings or models of the proposed buildings.

The third step is preparing your construction drawings which include:

1. Sound systems
2. Special lighting effects
3. Design plans
4. Structural design
5. Energy saving heating and cooling
6. Specifications (in laypersons language)

I have found that coordinating all of these design phases through one firm avoids costly delays, misunderstanding and mistakes during constructions.

There are many phases in church planning and design which require a specialist in that field. When you start your next building program, I hope you will give me a call.

At Your Service,
Thomas L. Jones

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THE WOOTEN SCHOOL OF MUSIC

1003 W. 5th, Greenville, NC 27834

or call Studio, 919-757-1023 Home 919-757-1135 - Ya'll Come!

CLASSIFIEDS

- Provide insight for spiritual growth of the church and outreach efforts
- Plan and implement Christian education opportunities for the membership
- Serve as an ex-officio member of all church auxiliaries

- Provide leadership to associate ministers affiliated with the church

QUALIFICATIONS

- Must be saved and have a personal relationship with the Lord
- Must be ordained to preach and be able to serve as an administrator of a local congregation
- Must possess interpersonal skills that

facilitate interaction with church members and various community resources

- Must possess leadership abilities
- Must have personal stamina and enthusiasm to encourage the spiritual growth of the congregation

- Must have at least two years of experience in church leadership in some capacity and some Bible school training

Resumes will be accepted until the position is filled. To apply, send resume to the attention of Mrs. Vesta Mullins, Chairperson of the Pastoral Search Committee, at the church's address. For more information call Rev. Carolyn

Squires, Committee Co-Chairperson at 252-638-4726.

836 Green Street

P.O. Box 12881

New Bern, NC 28560

252-633-2388

Oakey Grove Missionary Baptist Church

Clayton, NC: currently accepting applications for a Pastor with strong Missionary Baptist roots. We are affiliated with the Johnston District Missionary Baptist Association and the General Baptist State Convention. Interested applicants should provide the following:

1. A resume
2. Personal references

Send information to:

Oakey Grove Baptist Church

Pulpit Search Committee

Deacon Loomis Hodges, Chairperson

PO Box 2435

Smithfield, NC 27577

Mount Carmel Missionary Baptist Church

Elizabeth City, NC: currently accepting applications for a Pastor. The church is located in Hertford County. Interested applicants should provide the following:

1. A Resume
2. A copy of religious credentials: License/Ordination

3. Two personal references (no family references)

Send information to:

Mount Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church

Pulpit Committee

P.O. Box 1421

Elizabeth City, 27906-1421

Union Grove Baptist Church

Warrenton, NC: currently accepting applications for a Pastor. Interested applicants should provide the following:

A Resume

Send information to:

Brother Alonza Jones, Board Chairman

Pastor Search Committee

Route 2, Box 128

Norlina, NC 27563

First Missionary Baptist Church

Thomasville, NC: currently accepting applications for a Pastor with strong Missionary Baptist roots. We are affiliated with the Johnston District Missionary Baptist Association and the General Baptist State Convention, interested applicants should provide a resume. Send information to:

Tanya M. Autry, Chairperson

Pastor Search Committee

First Missionary Baptist Church

103 Church Street

Thomasville, NC 27360

General Baptist State Convention & Auxiliaries

Second Annual

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Monday, May 5, 2003 • 8am

Farmville Golf & Country Club

308 Bynum Dr., Farmville, NC 27828, (252) 753-3660

FORMAT: • Captain's Choice • On-Site Registration • Start Time 8am
• Mulligans are available for purchase at \$5 per Mulligan (up to 2 per person)

This year's field is open to the first 72 people that register!

• Your Cost To Participate: \$40 per Golfer, \$160 Per Team •

Entry fee includes: Green/Cart Fees, Awards Presentation, Lunch and Door Prizes

PRIZES - TROPHIES

- Championship Flight
- 1st Flight \$160
- 2nd Flight \$80
- 3rd Flight \$40
- Longest Drive Competition \$40
- Closest to the Pin Par 3 \$40



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\$50 PER HOLE

For more information call Rev. Cornelius Moore at (252) 442-2318 or Dr. Howard Parker at (252) 756-4869.

PARTICIPANT ENTRY FORM

Name _____

Address _____

Phone (include area code) _____

Team Members:

1. _____ 2. _____

3. _____ 4. _____

INCLUDE PAYMENT: ☐ Check or Money Order ☐ Credit Card (call GBSC office)

★ Please return registration form along with payment for \$40 per player or \$160 per team, payable to GBSC, Inc. by April 28, 2003 to secure your place!!!

Mail you entry to: General Baptist State Convention, 603 S. Wilmington St., Raleigh, NC 27601. Phone: 1-919-821-7466 or 1-800-639-4272.

ATTENTION!

PASTORS & PREACHERS STOP! & ANSWER

- * Is your schedule busy?
- * Do you find yourself laboring hard and long preparing sermons?
- * Would you find yourself laboring long and hard preparing sermons?
- * Would you like to get the material that's ready for the pulpit?
- * Would you like to have material that's easy to read, where all the research is already done for you?

Then "SERMCO MINISTERS" is your solution.

- * We have sermons that ADDRESS ALL OCCASIONS

- * Each sermon is easy to read

(DOUBLE SPACED ON SINGLE SHEETS)

- * Each sermons is HOMILETICALLY arranged

(Introduction, Exposition, Come-Home, and Closing)

- * Each sermon has VERSES OF SONGS, HYMNS INSERTED

(where appropriate)

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with minimum amount of study and adjustments

Single copies are \$5 each. Anthology (Book of 26 Sermons) Volume I and Volume II, \$75 each. Shipping and handling charges will be added to all orders. Catalogs with listings are free upon request. Direct all questions and answers to:

MT. ARARAT BAPTIST CHURCH, INC., 2503 N. MYRTLE AVE.,
JACKSONVILLE, FLA. 32209

ATTN: SERMCO MINISTRIES, PASTOR D.A. LATTIMORE, JR.

904-354-7893 (CHURCH)

(FAX 904-354-5883)

CLASSIFIEDS

EBENEZER BAPTIST CHURCH – Neburgh, NY: currently accepting applications for Senior Pastor with strong Baptist roots. The Committee will provide each candidate with an application packet.

Send request to:

Ebenezer Baptist Church
ATTN: Deacon Milton
Buxton/Confidential
PO Box 248
Newburgh, NY 12551-0248

SHADY GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH – East Spencer, NC: currently accepting applications for a Pastor with strong Missionary Baptist roots. Interested applicants should provide the following:

1. A resume
2. at least four references: (2) business (2) personal

3. A copy of religious credentials: License/Ordination

Send information to:

Shady Grove Baptist Church
ATTN: Clarence A. Jones, Chairperson
PO Box 447
East Spencer, NC 28039

EASTERN STAR MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH – Tarboro, NC: seeking a pastor.

- He must be experienced
- Well seasoned
- He must live by the word of God
- Willing to teach Sunday school and bible study class
- Must be between the age of 25-55

Please submit resume to:

Pulpit Committee
Eastern Star Missionary Baptist Church
Post Office Box 1677
Tarboro, North Carolina 27886

FOSTER MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH – Rocky Mount, NC: The Pulpit Search Committee of the Foster Memorial Missionary Baptist Church located in Rocky Mount, North Carolina, is accepting resume for the position of pastor. Applicants must possess the following qualifications:

- He must possess good moral and ethical conduct, living by Timothy 3:1-1, Titus 1:7-9 and abstain from study activities and inclinations as those cited in Romans 1:26-27.

- He must have a minimum of three (3)

years experience as pastor with demonstrated ability in counseling and supervising all work for the church.

- He must live in the proximity of the church.

- He must be born again, filled with the Holy Spirit and called by God to preach God's word.

- He must possess a strong knowledge of the Missionary Baptist Doctrine, Church Policies, and Practices, and be willing to abide by them.

- He must have the skills required to work with all age groups, with special emphasis on the youth.

- He must have the skills required for planning and implementing a vision for spiritual, physical and financial growth of the church. — He must be community oriented, and have strong family values.

- He must have a minimum of a high school diploma preferably a degree or courses in seminary training from an accredited college or university.

- He must be willing to attend Sunday School, Prayer Meetings, and teach Bible Study.

Please send resume to:

Foster Memorial Missionary Baptist Church, 1911 South Church Street
Post Office Box 6317
Rocky Mount, NC 2802-6317
C/O The Pulpit Committee
Trustee Hiawatha Knight

MOUNT CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH – Shelby, NC: currently accepting applications for a pastor with strong Missionary Baptist roots. The Church is affiliated with the Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Association, and the General Baptist State Convention of N.C. Interested applicants should provide the following:

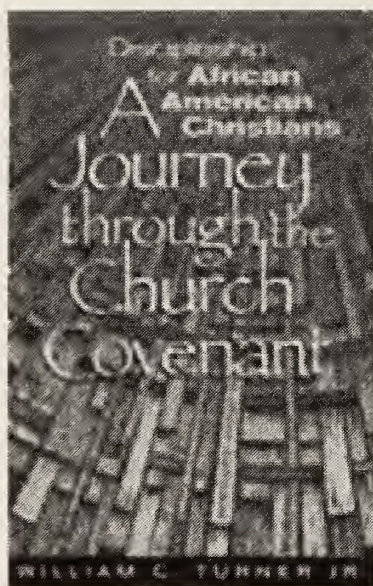
Resume (including pastor experiences and educational qualifications)

A copy of religious credentials (license/ordination)

At least three personal references (no family)

Send information to:

Pastor Search Committee
Mount Calvary Baptist Church
P.O. Box 3181
Shelby, N.C. 28151-3181



DISCIPLESHIP FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN CHRISTIANS: A JOURNEY THROUGH THE CHURCH COVENANT

TURNER JR, WILLIAM C. \$12.00

These discipleship studies take one of the most visible documents in black Baptist churches as an occasion to reflect on the meaning of the Christian walk for today's believers. An ideal resource for new church members or for others who want to understand more about the nature of the faith they are proclaiming, this thorough discipleship resource ends each chapter with a summary of key points, as well as questions for reflection intended to help readers understand and apply the lessons

found in the chapter. William Turner uses the Church Covenant, a short statement of faith that many African American Baptists have committed to memory, as a vehicle for teaching the Baptist faith, with special attention paid to how the Covenant is grounded in the person, work, and experience of the Holy Spirit. Each chapter is based on a phrase from the Covenant itself and explores the Scriptural foundations for the phrase and the belief expressed in it. Discipleship for African American Christians is ideal for personal or small-group study, as well as for Christian education and Sunday school settings.

Available at www.judsonpress.com

CLASSIFIEDS

HOPPERS CHAPEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH – Shelby, NC: now accepting resumes for the position of pastor. Potential candidates must be a born again Christian with strong Baptist roots. Hoppers Chapel is a member of the Ebenezer Baptist Association. All applicants must possess the following qualifications.

- Must be ordained and licensed
 - Must have at least 1 yr. Pastoral experience
 - Must provide credentials of theological training
 - Must be an effective teacher and counselor
 - Must possess extensive knowledge of Baptist Doctrine
 - Provide a mission statement for the church
 - Live in close proximity to the church
- The applicant must have the ability to plan and implement a growth strategy

for both the spiritual and physical growth of the church.

Send all resumes to:

Hoppers Chapel Missionary Baptist Church

C/O Pulpit Committee

415 West Graham St.

Shelby, N.C. 28150

CHURCH STAFF

MUSICIANS:

BASIC REQUIREMENTS FOR SERVICE:

1. Born-again Christian, Spirit-filled, and divinely gifted in music ministry.
2. Willingness to spiritually align the music ministry with Pastoral vision.
3. Able to play the piano, keyboard and/or organ; able to read music and versatile.
4. Able to prepare choirs for Sunday morning worship services and other services.

5. Able to teach, as, well as direct choirs, with humility and love.

6. Able to rehearse with all choirs on schedule, and available for all Sunday services.

7. Able to accompany Pastor and choirs to other services as required (or ensure qualified substitute is available).

8. Able to select appropriate hymns and songs for worship.

ST. JAMES BAPTIST CHURCH - Greensboro, NC: Seeks Minister of Music with the following requirements:

- Born-again Christian, Spirit-filled, divinely gifted in music ministry
- Willingness to spiritually align the music ministry with Pastoral vision
- Ability to play piano, keyboard and/or organ, ability to read music and versatile
- Ability to prepare choirs for Sunday morning worship service and other services
- Ability to teach, as well as direct choirs, with humility and love
- Ability to rehearse with all choirs on schedule, and available for all Sunday services.
- Ability to accompany Pastor and choirs

to other services as required (or assure qualified substitute is available)

- Ability to select appropriate hymns and songs for worship
- Has the God given ability to work with diverse groups and personalities.
- Preferably a degree in music
- Must be trustworthy, punctual, and fair in all of service to the congregation

Duties include: Be prepared for worship service and rehearsals; Be on time for worship service and rehearsals; Make sure instruments are in good condition at all times for performances; Have immediate access to "Baptist Hymnals" at all times; Be receptive to spontaneous input of members; Have cordial spirit in presenting rehearsal strategy; Be flexible in presentation; Be mindful of time; Adjust accordingly; Try to be available for engagements representing St. James outreach ministry; Implement new strategies and methods gradual, so growth can be achieved. All applicants send resume to:

St. James Baptist Church
Attention Rev. King and Music Committee
536 West Florida Street
Greensboro, NC 27406

Here is the church, here is the steeple Open the door and see all the people

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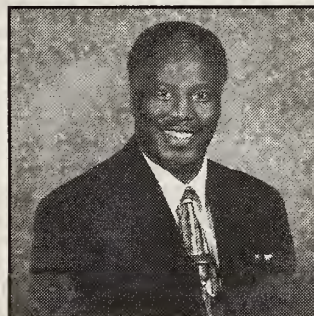
Piney Grove Baptist Church

a saving station for lost souls and enrichment center for Christians

Come Worship With Us!

9:30 am
11:00 am

Sunday School
Morning Worship Service



Dr. James F. Linville

Dr. James F. Linville, Pastor
4715 Indiana Avenue
Winston-Salem, NC 27106
(336) 767-4044

E-mail:
pgbc2005@bellsouth.net

Website:
www.pineygrovebcinc.org

CLASSIFIEDS

MINISTER OF MUSIC WANTED SPRINGFIELD BAPTIST CHURCH

— Stanley, NC:

- A Spirit-filled leader — skilled in the Word
 - Child of God
 - Faithful and committed to God's program
 - The gift to play by ear with or without the accompaniment of other musicians
 - Has the ability to read and teach music
 - Plays versatile music — which includes hymns, spirituals, contemporary gospel and praise songs
 - Available to accompany the pastor and choirs to other churches when and as needed
 - Available for all rehearsals and Sunday Worship service
- Please contact: Melissa Fanning — (H) 704-563-3230 or Pastor Theodore Armstrong — Church 704-263-4426

MINISTER OF MUSIC NEEDED

— Wake Forest, NC: congregation seeks musician. 1) The duties include working directly with the Pastor in order to assist and cooperate with him in Christian Worship, 2.) Playing during Sunday morning worship service, 3.) Rehearsing with various choirs one night per week, 4.) And accompanying the Pastor on engagements to other churches. Please forward a cover letter and resume to: Evans Grove Missionary Baptist Church 12700 Creedmoor Road Highway 50 Wake Forest, NC 27587 (919) 870-8874

MINISTER OF MUSIC VACANCY: THE SPRING GREEN MISSION- ARY BAPTIST CHURCH

— Warrenton, NC: seeks a Minister of Music to provide musical direction and accompaniment for 4 choirs in the church. This person will work closely with the Pastor to provide spiritual leadership in the ministry of Jesus Christ through music, i.e. hymns, spiritual songs, and praise and worship music that glorifies God.

We are accepting resumes from candidates with the appropriate qualifications. (Specific qualifications listed in beginning of staff musician section.) For additional information please send inquiry or resume to: Spring Green Missionary Baptist Church PO Box 924, Warrenton, NC 2589 Rev. Dennis G. Lindsay, Pastor

MUSICIAN NEEDED — Oakboro, NC: Must be a Christian available to serve every Sunday. Prepare Choirs and Praise

Team for Sunday morning worship. Rehearse with choirs on scheduled times. Be available to accompany Pastor and choirs to church functions. Direct congregation in congregational hymns. Must be able to play by ear as well as read music

To apply call:

(704) 532-6813 or E-mail to Galilee, NC@aol.com
Galilee Missionary Baptist Church
PO. Box 644, Oakboro, NC 28129

CHURCH MUSICIAN VACANCY: FIRST MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

— Selma, NC: seeks musician for youth choir. Must be a Christian with good character.

Requirements:

- Play the organ and piano
- Able to play sacred and gospel music
- Read music and have the ability to play by ear

Send resume to:

Reverend S. Manfred Isom, Pastor
415 Star Ruby Drive
Knightdale, NC 27545

MINISTER OF MUSIC NEEDED: THE PENN AVENUE MOUNT OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH

— Lewiston, NC: seeking a musician for a station church, a Christian, who is responsible, has good character and a good reputation.

Requirements:

- *Plays the organ and piano
- *Able to work with a diverse group of singers
- *Experienced in all sacred music
- *Reads music and is versatile in playing by ear

Send resumes or responses to:

Mount Olive Baptist Church
PO Box 214
Lewiston-Woodville, NC 27849
Attention: William W. Peele, Jr.

MINISTER OF MUSIC WANTED: THE PENN AVENUE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

— Oxford, NC: currently seeking a Minister of Music.

QUALIFICATIONS:

(Specific qualifications listed in beginning of staff musician section.)
*Will be responsible with the pastor's approval in hiring other musicians if deemed necessary.

Salary: Negotiable

Sunday worship services. Service begins each Sunday at 11 a.m. with the exception of 5th Sunday services which begin at 10 a.m. Please send resume to the above listed address or inquiries may be made by calling one of the above listed numbers.

CHURCH MUSICIAN NEEDED — Warren County, NC: Knowledge of music and the ability to play by ear is appreciated. Presently, morning worship service is held every fourth (4th) Sunday, but we are considering an additional Sunday for services. Must be able to play for youth choir and adult choir. Church is located in Warren County, North Carolina. For further information, please call: (252) 257-0221

CHURCH MUSICIAN: THE CEDAR GROVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

— Gibson, NC: seeking a person to serve as Church Musician. Qualifications: (Specific qualifications listed in beginning of staff musician section.) Salary negotiable. Please send resume to Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Church at this address.

Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Church
14600 Railroad St.
Gibson, NC 28343

CHURCH MUSICIAN: THE FRIENDSHIP MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

— High Point, NC: accepting resumes for a Church Musician. Qualifications: (Specific qualifications listed in beginning of staff musician section.) Salary negotiable.
715 West Willis Ave.
High Point, NC 27260

JEFFRIES CROSS BAPTIST CHURCH

— Burlington, NC: Send cover letter and resume to Jeffries Cross Baptist Church, 2015 Jeffries Cross Rd., Burlington, NC 27217. Phone: 336-226-9626. We are currently seeking a musician who will work

directly with the pastor to provide spiritual leadership in the music ministry. Qualifications: 1. A Christian with piano, keyboard, organ ability; read music, play chords, teach harmony, direct choirs, conduct two rehearsals per month with four choirs, accompany pastor on engagements, accommodate traditional and contemporary worship styles.

CHURCH MUSICIAN - Hope Mills, NC: Swans Creek Missionary Baptist Church, North Carolina. Qualifications:

- *A Spirit-filled leader — devinely gifted in music ministry
 - *Willingness to align the music ministry with Pastoral vision
 - *Able to play piano, keyboard; able to read music and play by ear
 - *Able to prepare choirs for morning worship service and other services
 - *Able to rehearse with all choirs on a regular basis and available for all Sunday services
 - *Accompany Pastor and choirs to other services
- Please contact or send resume to: 2404 Swans Creek Church Rd., Hope Mills, NC 28348 (910)323-4595

MINISTER OF MUSIC NEEDED

— Henderson, NC: congregation seeking a full-time minister of music, who will be responsible for directing, managing, and developing all functions and aspects associated with planning and implementing a comprehensive Church Music Ministry. Must be available for all worship services and practices.

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TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Sunday, May 4, 2003

7:00 pm Pre-Convention Musical

Monday, May 5, 2003

8 am - 1:00 pm Mid-Year Golf Tourn.
9am - 12 noon Teaching / Training Classes
1:30 - 4:30 pm Worship & Classes Cont.
6:00 - 7:30 pm Evening Classes
7:30 - 9:00 pm Worship
9:00 pm Late Night Evangelism

Tuesday, May 6, 2003

8:30 - 10:00 am Education Advocacy
10:15 am Official GBSC Opening, President Charles T. Bullock
10:30 - 12 noon GBSC Workshops and Institutes, Institutional Ministry
Health And Human Services
2:00 - 4:30 pm Preaching / Teaching At Its Best - Ministers Council
6:00 - 7:30 pm Evening Classes
7:30 - 8:00 pm Political Action Update
8:00 - 9:30 pm Worship, Mid-Year Sermon
9:30 pm Late Night Evangelism

Wednesday, May 7, 2003

9:00 - 10:30 am Worship - Past President's Sermon
10:30 - 11:00 am GBSC Reports
11:00 - 12 noon Mid-Year Theme Lecture
12 noon President's Hour
Adjournment

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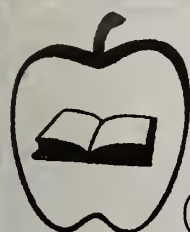


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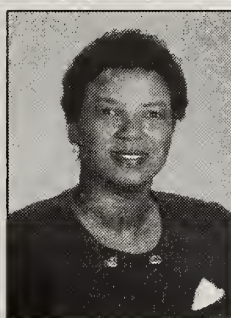


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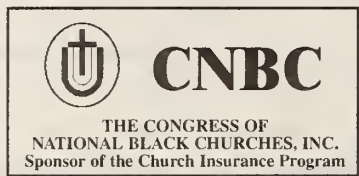
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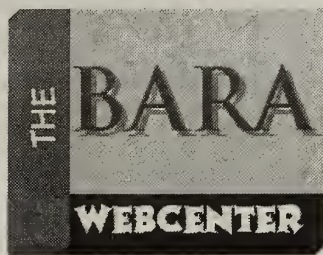
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BAPTIST INFORMER

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BAPTIST INFORMER

Volume 126, No. 6

Publication of the General Baptist State Convention of N.C., Inc.
Voice of 500,000 North Carolina Baptists

June 2003

Congratulations to the Graduates and Keep the Faith To Those Who Did Not Make It This Time

By Dr. Archie D. Logan, Jr.
Executive Secretary

Greetings! It is time for graduations. During June many persons will be moving forward on the educational pathway of life. They have reached a milestone of excellence.

Graduations from Head Start to a Terminal Degree are a blessing from God. The students will be marching with their "hats and gowns". Graduation is a measure of educational achievement, discipline and determination. Graduates need to thank God, parents, guardians and all those that assisted along the way of their educational journey. Someone made a sacrifice on your behalf. On behalf of General Baptist State Convention President Dr. Charles T. Bullock, the officers and headquarters staff, we want to congratulate each one of you. Keep on working, you still have other milestones to reach in your academic lives.

Pastors, Moderators, church leaders and officers, graduates should be recognized. One of the things you can do in your church congregation and Association is to present each graduate, have them stand up! From the youngest to the oldest, we all appreciate a little public recognition. Also I want to encourage churches to present the youngest graduates with BIBLES. Often we wait until a person graduates from high school before we give them a Bible from the church. We need to start young giving religious literature to our children. "Train up a child in the way s/he should go" (Proverbs 22:6). Come by our General Baptist Bookstore, 603 South Wilmington Street, Raleigh, NC, 919-821-7466; 800-639-GBSC for your student Bibles. Churches and Associations should give students scholarships for university, college, community college and continuing education. We also need to develop referral programs to help learners and find additional educational resources. Education is expensive but ignorance costs more!

In the midst of all our celebration, recognition and praise for the graduates, we are faced with a growing problem: THOSE PERSONS WHO DO NOT GRADUATE! Let me share with you one of my great concerns as a minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and GBSC Executive Secretary at graduation time. Despite the enthusiasm, excitement and exhilaration among many graduates and their families, a large number of people will not meet the minimum requirements to graduate or worse they will become school dropouts. Statistics continue to indicate that African-Americans and Hispanics are dropping out of school, or falling behind their classmates. In some cases learners are pigeonholed into one-size fits all. Many learners are tracked into non-college preparatory programs. Some people are told they cannot do college or technical work. Our churches and religious leaders must get involved with public, private and charter school education on all levels. It is tragic to see more people on the street corner than in the graduation line.

People can learn! Different people will learn better in different environments, under different motivations and at different places. Some learners thrive in a very structured school environment with tight discipline. They need the structure to provide rules and guidelines and the discipline to drive them along to get the best out of them.

Military training is also an option for some young people. The military option has given many people a more stable career. Other learners need more liberty and flexibility. They thrive in informal environments where there are a minimum of rules that allow each learner to experiment and explore for oneself to learn by discovery. It has always fascinated me to watch a young child hear a song on the radio or television and immediately learn that song; yet, teachers report that the same child cannot learn languages, calculus, statistics, mathematics, literature or science. Why is it some students do well on tests and others struggle. When I was in graduate school there were several persons who could not pass their prelims and had to change programs or accept lesser degrees. Granted the educational journey like life is a challenge, we all face issues but obstacles can be overcome and navigated. The GBSC, Inc., is concerned about education. President Bullock has made it a key element in his administration.

I want to encourage those of you who did not graduate and ask others who have dropped out of the educational system to go back to school. The State of North Carolina offers many opportunities for those who have not completed the

basic educational thresholds. The Community College system, alternative schools, the University system and Private education makes getting an education possible for anyone. What can churches, pastors, Associations and GBSC religious organizations do?

- Use your church facilities as educational learning laboratories.
- Church leaders should be educational role models: encourage people to better themselves.
- Have an educational committee in your church.
- Identify children with so-called learning difficulties and work with them in after school/weekend programs.
- Provide continuing education for your pastor and officers.
- Create and maintain a church scholarship fund: help anyone who is willing to help himself or herself.
- Motivate, Motivate, Motivate: no one is too old to learn.
- Never assume someone cannot learn.
- Invite principals, educators and politicians to your church to discuss the plight of education in your community.
- Build your church library, computer and media learning center. Invest in learning!
- Track the progress of all learners in your church.
- Provide private counseling and one on one contact for those having trouble learning in traditional educational settings; realize there are barriers to helping: peer pressure, stigma, etc.

"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." 2 Timothy 2:15 (KJV).



Dr. Archie
Logan, Jr.



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OUR 136TH YEAR

PNBC Annual Session to be held in Charlotte

*Submitted By Dr. Archie D. Logan, Jr
Executive Secretary-Treasurer*

The Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc. will hold its Annual Session in Charlotte, North Carolina August 4-9. The churches, whose membership reaches into the international countries of the Caribbean Islands, England, and Africa, will join other Baptist congregations throughout the United States and have better than 25,000 members attending. The PNBC has a mission statement that says it is committed to the mandate of making disciples of Christ. The Convention is founded on the precepts of fellowship, service, progress and peace, and seeks to affirm the "priesthood of all believers".

Led by Dr. Major L. Jemison, Pastor of the St. John Missionary Baptist Church in Oklahoma City, OK, the Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc. (PNBC) is dedicated to the spreading of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The theme the convention has centered its ministries around is "Building Better Bridges for

Ministry". Dr. Harold Diggs and the congregation of Mayfield Memorial Baptist Church are the local hosts of the convention during its stay in Charlotte, NC.

The city of Charlotte will be overflowing with the Word of God presented in a multiplicity of worship periods and evangelical causes. Meeting at the Convention Center in downtown Charlotte, President Jemison has comprised a week of Christian service and ministry that will seek to elevate man's existence to a higher level.

On Monday night, the Convention will have its official opening when Dr. Gilbert E. Patterson, Presiding Bishop of the Church of God in Christ will bring the opening message. A Mass Choir will be comprised of delegates from member churches along with sister churches from Charlotte and areas in close proximity. Interested voices should contact Kenneth Kilgore, National Music Director of the Convention at St. John Missionary Baptist Church, 5700 North Kelley Ave., Oklahoma City, OK 73111, and phone #405-478-3344,

Email address kekilgore@stjohnokc.org. The Evangelism Board/Ministry coordinates this service. Dr. Roy Jeffcoat is Chairperson.

On Tuesday night, President Jemison will host the President's Educational Awards Banquet. This is a new concept for the Convention and the Rev. Dr. William Gray, Executive Director of the United Negro College Fund (UNCF), will be the keynote speaker.

On Wednesday morning, America's Preacher, the eminent Dr. Gardner C. Taylor will lead the convention worship. Dr. Taylor is Pastor Emeritus of the Concord Baptist Church of Christ in Brooklyn, NY, and is one of the past presidents of the PNBC. His leadership as a preacher, teacher and pastor has earned the respect of his colleagues and congregants. He delivered the invocation at President Clinton's 1993 inauguration and Time Magazine has referred to Dr. Taylor as "the Dean of the nation's Black preachers"; Ebony magazine praised him as "one of the greatest preachers in American history".

President Jemison will bring his Presidential Address to the national body on Thursday evening. The President's Church Choir and members from St. John Baptist Church will be the special guests during this special presidential moment. The Convention will end on Friday with the Annual Freedom Night Service. The founder of the famed National Children's Defense Fund, Dr. Mariam Wright Edelman will be honored for her years of dedicated service to freedom and civil rights. The eminent Vernon Jordan, renowned Attorney and champion of civil rights, will be the keynote speaker.

During the day, the convention will be divided into classes that will study various phases of Christian Education. Additionally, the Women's Department,

Laymen's Department, Youth Department, Ushers, Evangelism, Prayer Ministry, and Preachers will convene and fine-tune their role in "Building Better Bridges for Ministry". The Evangelism Ministry will meet each morning and will spend an hour with prayers being offered on behalf of the convention, and the challenges all churches face during the 21st Century.

The PNBC have been creative and innovative, as they have led this African-American body of worshippers. They were the first Black Baptist Denomination to:

- Employ a full-time General Secretary and staff.
- Establish a National Headquarters.
- Make Civil Rights a top priority.
- Establish simultaneous meetings of the Congress of Christian Education and the Convention in their annual sessions.
- Adopt a perpetual scriptural focus in Romans 12:9-21.
- Establish strict tenure limitations on all officers of the convention.
- Adopt a unified budget.
- Adopt the 1% Plan, by which progressive churches contribute to the Convention 1% of the church's annual receipts of the operating budget for the previous year to support, strengthen, and sustain the work of the Convention.
- Adopt a Pension Plan for pastors and church missionaries and employees.
- PNBC pastors were the first African-Americans to:
 - Deliver famed Lyman Beecher Lectures on Preaching in Yale University.
 - Teach Homiletics in Harvard, Yale, and Union Theological Seminaries.
 - Be invited to preach or lecture at Harvard University.
 - Elected President of the American Baptist Churches in the USA, Inc.
 - Elected President of the North American Baptist Fellowship.
 - Be Dean of the American Baptist

PNBC, Cont'd Next Page

Prostate Cancer in African-American Men

*By Dr. Archie D. Logan, Jr
Executive Secretary-Treasurer*

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ! During the month of June we celebrate Father's Day and Men's Day in many of our churches. It is a time to honor, memorialize, and celebrate the African-American male and his religious journey on the planet. Many of the great leaders of the race have had their roots in the African-American church. Men of Color have been role models, mentors, fathers and guardians for children, youth and young adults. Spend time with your father, if he is still living. Remember those that have gone on to be with the Lord. I just want to lift up my father's name one more time, he passed in 1971: The Reverend Dr. A. D. Logan, Sr., pastor of the First Baptist Church, Reidsville, NC and the Shady Grove Baptist Church, Pelham, NC.

Amid the Father's Day celebrations and recognitions, there are grave health issues that face men of the race. It has been documented that African-American men may have the highest rate of prostate cancer incidence in the world. In addition, our prostate cancer mortality rate is twice as high as the rate for white Americans. In 1995, mortality rates were approximately 24.7 cases per 100,000 white men, and 55.1 cases per 100,000 African-American men. Mortality rates also are increasing much more rapidly among African-American men (about 1.8 percent annually from 1995 to 2001) than

among whites (about 1.0 percent annually). The trends are alarming and appear to be worsening.

The causes of higher rates of prostate cancer among African-American males are largely unknown. Several studies found that even when income and education are controlled for, African-Americans have much higher rates than whites. Recent studies were conducted in several areas of the United States to investigate the reasons for African-Americans' high rates of prostate cancer and other cancers. These case-control studies examined the impact of a wide variety of potential risk factors, including dietary and other lifestyle differences, occupational exposures, and hormonal and genetic differences. It has been determined that a combination of these factors leads to the high rate of prostate cancer among men in the race.

Pastors, take time in your congregations to make men aware of this disease. Put information in your bulletins about health screenings, referral centers and health care resources. Invite local care advocates, physicians and health educators to your churches. Have health awareness groups among the men in your congregations. Finally, if you need more information about prostate cancer, call: The GBSC Health & Human Service Program, Dr. Anita Holmes, Director, 919/489-9243; 800/639GBSC. Have a Happy Father's Day!

**From the
GBSC Family:
HAPPY
FATHER'S
DAY!**

THE BAPTIST INFORMER

Publication of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc.
Voice of 500,000 Baptists
(USPS 042-680)

Dr. Archie D. Logan Jr., Executive Editor
Dr. Priscilla A. Brodie, Executive Editor
Ms. Carol J. Smith, Managing Editor

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THEME: "By the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness..." (II Corinthians 6:7)

To God Be the Glory: Great Things He Has Done

By Charles T. Bullock, President



Dr. Charles Bullock

and the Sycamore Hill Baptist family for superbly hosting this session. We were made welcome and accommodated in a magnificent way. Where the spirit of God dwells, love abides.

Thanks to Dr. Archie Logan and the entire convention staff for their dedication and work in the day to day operation of our convention and seeing that each convention setting is scheduled and space made available for planned meetings and worship services.

I also express my gratitude to the General Baptist Family, (those of you who were able to attend) for your prayers, your spirit in love, good fellowship and

I am grateful to God for his abiding spirit upon us as we met at the Sycamore Hill Baptist Church, Greenville, North Carolina, May 4-7, for the Mid-Year Session of our Convention. Thanks to Dr. Howard Parker

financial support. I praised God for all of the program participants for your commitment and devotion, as you shared in helping to create an atmosphere of worship in our classes, our devotional sessions, business sessions and for the preaching of God's word. To God be the Glory.

The enhancement of the educational component through the teaching ministry of our convention was evident. The overwhelming participation and enthusiasm for the classes offered was encouraging. Some of the classes offered were "Developing Your Church Leadership Team"; "Spiritual Disciplines For The Christian Life"; "Baptist History and Polity"; "How To Live On A Fixed Income"; "Christian Discipleship" and others. As we planned to strengthen the educational component of our convention, we will continue to offer classes for the certificate program as well as classes for those who wish to receive credit for continuing education, or toward a degree offered at Shaw University Divinity School.

As we move forward with our commitment to "serve the present age" there are challenges and tasks before us to be addressed, issues that need solutions, and questions that need answers. We invite your input, involvement and support through our communities, boards, dis-

tricts, associations and conventional sessions as we seek appropriate resolve.

All Pastors and Moderators are asked to join us for a Presidential Summit to be held June 26, at 10:00 a.m. at the Metropolitan Baptist Church, Winston-Salem, Dr. J. D. Ballard, Pastor. The Executive

Committee will meet July 8, 10:00 a.m., and General Board at 11:15 a.m., at the First Cosmopolitan Baptist Church, 1515 Cross Link Road, Raleigh, Dr. W. B. Lewis, Pastor, and September 30, in Winston-Salem, at the Mount Carmel Baptist Church, Dr. A. T. Griffey III, Pastor. ■

GBSC Is Available To Work With Churches

By Dr. Archie D. Logan Jr.

Greetings! The General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina is available to work with your church during the time you do not have a Pastor. We will work with the Deacons and other officers to provide guidance as you search for a new pastor to lead your church.

Some of the things we offer:

- We have ordained Baptist ministers available to assist the Deacons in carrying out the Church Ordinances: Lord Supper and Baptism.
- We have ordained clergy who can serve as an "Interim Minister" in your church.
- Some suggested workshops:

- ✓ How To Select An Interim Pastor?
- ✓ How To Call A Pastor?
- ✓ How Much Should We Pay Our Pastor?
- ✓ Church Administration
- ✓ How To Plan A Church Budget
- ✓ Effective Bible Study
- ✓ Evangelism Classes
- ✓ Special Training For Deacons/Trustees
- ✓ Christian Education Planning
- ✓ Church Development

Please call if you are interested in any of these services!
1-800-639-GBSC (4272)

PNBC, Cont'd From Page 2

Seminary of the West.

President Jemison is committed to bringing a worshipful, prayerful atmosphere of praise and adoration to this meeting, and all nightly services are open to the public with no admission charge. For additional information contact the PNBC Headquarters at 601 - 50th Street NE, Washington, DC 20019, phone #800-876-7622, Email: info@pnbc.org.

Contact the following people for information:

Dr. Major L Jemison

St. John Missionary Baptist Church
5700 North Kelley Avenue
Oklahoma City, OK 73111

(405) 478-3344

Email address:

mljemison@stjohnnkc.org

PNBC Headquarters

601 50th Street NE
Washington, DC 20019
(800) 876-7622

Email address: info@pnbc.org

Kenneth Kilgore, National Music Director

St. John Missionary Baptist Church
5700 North Kelley Avenue
Oklahoma City, OK 73111

(405) 478-3344

Email address:

kekilgore@stjohnnkc.org

UPCOMING SESSIONS

♦ July 17-19, 2003

GBSC Trinity Session

Second Calvary Baptist Church, 114 Nelson Ave., Charlotte, NC, 704-398-0147

♦ October 26-30, 2003

GBSC Annual Session

Ebenezer Baptist Church, 2020 W. Sugar Creek Rd., Charlotte, NC
Host Pastor: Leonzo Lynch, 704-598-2219



Eric Olinick
Sales Representative

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Fax (919) 790-1057

eolinick@water.com

3216 Spotswood Street • Raleigh, NC 27615

119th Annual Session Event

By Executive Secretary-Treasurer Brodie

The 119th Annual Session of the Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign



Dr. Priscilla Brodie

Missionary Convention of North Carolina will convene in Winston-Salem, North Carolina at the Benton Convention Center. Please begin praying and making preparation to attend and participate in this celebration.

The session convenes during the week of July 27-31, 2003, Reverend Nilous Avery, II, and Mt. Zion Baptist Church will serve as hosts. The host hotel is the Adam's Mark, Winston-Salem.

Among the activities are:

1. A Communion Service on Sunday, July 27th, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. (place to be announced). There will not be a pre-convention musical on Sunday evening.

2. The Johnnie Blunt McLester Pre-Convention Banquet on Monday evening, July 28th, 2003 at 6:00 p.m. at the Benton Convention Center. You may secure tickets from the office of the Woman's Convention now. Tickets purchased by the advance deadline of June 23, 2003 are \$35.00 each. Tickets purchased on site are \$36.00 each. Please send to the office now for tickets.

3. Missions Study Classes on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday (July 29-31, 2003) in the Convention Center and Adams Mark Hotel. Pre-registration information is available for class registration. There will be classes for Pastors and Senior, Young Adult and Youth missionaries. The class for Pastors will be taught by a Pastor.

4. Youth Projects on Tuesday, July 29, 2003.

5. The Young Adult Missions Prayer Breakfast on Tuesday, July 29 at 6:45 a.m. The advance donation is \$15.00; at the door, \$16.00. Space is limited. Please send to the office for tickets now.

6. The Ministers' Wives and Widows Fellowship Luncheon on Tuesday, July 29 at 12:30 p.m. The advance donation is \$7.00; at the door, \$8.00. Space is limited. Please send to the office for tickets now.

7. The Youth Prayer "Pizza Party" during the conventional week (time and place to be announced). The advance donation is \$7.00; at the door, \$8.00. Space is limited. Please send to the office for tickets.



Dr. Julius McDonald

8. Annual Address of President McDonald along with the report of Executive Secretary-Treasurer Brodie on Wednesday morning (July 31).

9. Joint Early Morning

Prayer Hour for Seniors, Young Adults and Youth from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 a.m., Tuesday through Thursday.

10. Executive Committee Meeting on Monday, July 28th at 9:00 a.m. The Executive Board will meet at 10:00 a.m. The General Board will meet at 1:45 p.m.

Representation and Pre-registration fees should be sent to the office by July 6, 2003. Fee information and forms have been mailed to District Chairpersons and Circle, Union, and Auxiliary Presidents. Chairpersons and Presidents, please, contact the office if you have not received your Annual Session pre-registration information.

Please be reminded that the 2002-2003 Budget is in the amount of \$806,055.00.

Please bring or send, before the Convention, the greatest part of the balance of your quotas. Our fiscal year ends August 31, 2003. This is the tenth month of the fiscal year.

Please make checks/money orders payable to the Woman's Baptist Home

and Foreign Missionary Convention or the Woman's Baptist State Convention. Please mail contributions and correspondence to: Woman's Baptist State Convention, P. O. Box 1818, Raleigh, NC 27602.



Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention of North Carolina

Auxiliary to the General Baptist State Convention, Inc.

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

"Study to show thyself approved unto God..." II Timothy 2:15

WOMAN'S BAPTIST HOME AND FOREIGN MISSIONARY CONVENTION SCHOLARSHIPS Purpose?

The Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention Scholarships, established in 1994, provide annual scholarships to a Youth and a Young Adult to encourage, support, and enhance post high school training and career success.

Amount of Scholarships?

A \$500 non-renewable scholarship will be awarded to a Youth and a \$500 non-renewable scholarship will be awarded to a Young Adult.

Who May Apply?

Youth - a high school graduating senior, or equivalent.

Young Adult - enrolled in a technical school, college, or university.

Criteria?

The applicant must be:

- an active member of a missionary Baptist church that supports the Woman's Convention.
- a well-disciplined academically and socially, an active member of the local missionary department (as a youth)
- endorsed by his/her pastor
- selected by the State Scholarship Selection Committee

Where to Secure and Send Applications?

Applications may be obtained from and sent to the Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention Office.

What are the Timelines?

Applications must be received by the Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Woman's Convention on or before May 31.

Notification to award recipients will be on or before July 30. Awards will be made during the Annual Session of the convention in July.

How Will Scholarship Funds Be Processed?

Scholarship recipients will provide the Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Woman's Convention official notification from the institution to which funds are to be sent.

All funds will be sent directly from the Convention to the school, college or university.

Other Financial Assistance Opportunities

Cora Pair Thomas - The Cora Pair Thomas Scholarship Fund is to be used to assist needy Liberian students first, and any needy foreign African student attending Shaw University second. Any unused funds will be sent to the superintendent of our school in Liberia at the end of the year.

Ministers' Wives - Funds received through the Ministers' Wives Fellowship will be used to provide assistance to students in Shaw Divinity School.

Ellen S. Alston Memorial Fund (ESAMF) - The "Reserve Fund", established in 1977, will be used as an Emergency School Aid Fund for any Shaw student. The need for the funds is to be determined and executed jointly by the President and Executive Secretary-Treasurer, (ESAMF) - one half of the annual board self-denial).

Shaw University or Shaw Divinity School Scholarship - A scholarship may be awarded to a student enrolled in Shaw University or Shaw Divinity School. The amount may not exceed \$200 per semester and will be limited to two semesters. All checks for these funds are to be made payable to Shaw.

Mail your application to:

The Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention
P.O. Box 1818
Raleigh, NC 27601

or deliver application to:

601 S. Wilmington St.
Raleigh, NC 27601
Telephone 919-833-4823

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5000 Birch St., West Tower, Suite 4000, Newport Beach, CA 92660

Woman's Baptist Home & Foreign Missionary Convention of North Carolina

Young Adult **RETREAT**

Huntsville Baptist Church • 6160 Hwy. 96 N. • Oxford, North Carolina 27565

Serving the Present Age: Transforming the Family Through Christian Values/Ethics: Getting Back to the Basics

Friday, June 6, 2003 (7:30pm - 9pm) and Saturday, June 7, 2003 (8:00am - 2:00pm)

PLEASE PRE-REGISTER BEFORE THE DEADLINE: MAY 23, 2003

Advance Donation: _____ \$20 per person _____ \$35 per couple (Husband & Wife)

On Site Donation: _____ \$21 per person _____ \$36 per couple (Husband & Wife)

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____ (Lunch and snacks will be provided)

YOUR NAME _____ Date _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIPCODE _____

CHURCH _____ PASTOR _____

YOUR PHONE () _____ E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

Young Adult _____ Young Adult Director/Associate _____ Senior _____

My Child(ren) will attend the Youth Class: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Name of Child(ren) _____ Age(s) _____

✓ I shall not hold the Woman's Convention or GBSC liable for any injury which occurs to my child(ren) during the Young Adult Retreat. (Lunch will be provided for the children.)

Signature _____ Date _____

Please mail form along with money by May 23, 2003 to:

WOMAN'S BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION • P.O. BOX 1818 • RALEIGH, NC 27602

The Nehemiah Prayer Chain

of the
**Woman's Baptist Home &
Foreign Missionary Convention**
North Carolina, Auxiliary to GBSC



Enlistment Form

The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord; but the prayer of the upright is his delight. (Proverbs 15:8)

Confess your faults to one another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. (James 5:16)

Name _____
(Organization or Individual)

Mailing Address _____

Telephone Number _____

E-Mail _____

District _____ Group _____

Department _____
(Senior, Young, Adult, or Youth)

Chairperson - Mr. Robbie Diggs Co-Chairperson - Mrs. Colene Stanley

(Please return to the Office within seven (7) days)
Woman's State Baptist Convention

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

To: Subscribers of the Baptist Informer

From: Dr. Archie D. Logan, Jr.

Date: June 1, 2003

Re: Renewing Your Subscription

Greetings and Peace! We hope that you have been enjoying the Baptist Informer with its wonderful articles and updates on the events within the churches of the General Baptist State Convention.

This announcement is to let you know that we are in the process of updating and correcting our database of subscribers to the Baptist Informer. Soon, we will be monitoring subscription expiration dates and ending subscriptions when they expire.

Your individual expiration date is located on your mailing label on every issue of the Baptist Informer. Please make a note of this date and read the following:

For those that have expired: You will continue to receive the Baptist Informer through **August 2003**. After this time, we will begin the process of closing expired subscriptions. We encourage you to renew your subscription within the next few weeks, so that we can continue your issues uninterrupted. You will not receive another notice.

For those that are current with your subscription: We ask that you check your mailing label and send in your renewal a month prior to your expiration date.

Currently, the renewal rate is \$20.00 per year. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Renée at (919) 821-7466. Your contribution ensures that this needed ministry will continue. We appreciate and thank you for your support!

Please clip the form below to renew your subscription



BAPTIST INFORMER SUBSCRIPTION FORM

Individual subscriptions are \$20.00 per year.

Check the appropriate boxes:

☐ New ☐ 1 Year ☐ 2 Years ☐ 3 Years

☐ Renewal ☐ Address Change (include old label)

Mail To:

General Baptist State Convention
603 S. Wilmington Street
Raleigh, NC 27601-2338

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: () _____ Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

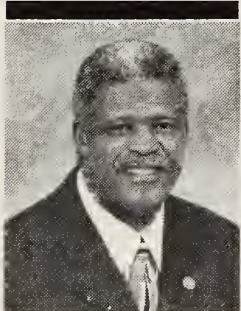
Make Check or Money Order payable to: General Baptist State Convention.

For Master Card & Visa: Call Carol at (919) 821-7466.

Making Disciples for Church Growth

By Rev. William A. Thurston, Ph. D.,
Program Coordinator

The General Baptist State Convention of NC (GBSC) has established a Certificate Program in Christian



Rev. William A.
Thurston

Discipleship, which is housed in the Congress of Christian Education, headed by President Diane M. Newell. This program, which is offered through the Associations of the GBSC, seeks to "make disciples" (Mt. 28:16-20), who can assist their pastors in advancing the Kingdom of God. Hence, the GBSC Certificate Program in Christian Discipleship intends to grow true disciples to "serve the present age", as expressed in the GBSC Presidential motto of Dr. Charles T. Bullock.

To test the effectiveness of the discipleship curriculum, a six-month pilot program was initiated recently by the GBSC through the Zion Missionary Baptist Association, which is moderated by Rev. Larry Leake. Eleven persons have received certificates for completing the Orientation Workshop for Leading Christian Discipleship Studies. Also, over 120 participants are completing the Course of Study in Foundations of Growing Christian Disciples. These participants will receive their certificates, at a Disciple Commissioning Service, in October of 2003.

In order to assist all Associations of the GBSC to initiate this program for their local churches, a special six-hour workshop was conducted on the Certificate Program in Christian Discipleship, at the Mid-Year Session in Greenville, NC. As a Master Disciple Trainer, I conducted this workshop with registration, clerical, and logistic support staff of the GBSC and the Host Church. To accommodate those who missed Discipleship Class #1, I also conducted a Makeup Workshop. Audio and video tapes of the Discipleship Class #1-Makeup, Discipleship Class #2, and Discipleship Class #3, can be purchased from U-Bam Services at 919-932-1010.

The workshop provided an overview on the essentials of the Foundational Curriculum for the Christian Discipleship Program. It helped its participants to learn how to: (1) develop a deeper relationship with Christ by prac-

ticing seven biblical disciplines; (2) become more Christ-like in character by learning to live in the Spirit; (3) experience victories over the flesh, the world, and the devil in spiritual warfare; and (4) join Christ's mission of kingdom building in the home, the church, and the world. The workshop also covered the Invitation, Orientation, Implementation, and Commission components of the Christian Discipleship Program. Hence, this program will assist pastors to "prepare God's people for the works of ministry" (Eph. 4:11-13).

At the Mid-Year Session, 25 people were awarded a Facilitator Certificate for Leading Christian Discipleship Studies, and 81 individuals received a

Participant Certificate for Introduction to Christian Discipleship Studies. With an additional 16 Observers, the workshop involved 122 people, statewide. All certificates were signed personally by



Diane
Newell

President Bullock, Dr. Archie D. Logan, Jr., (Executive Secretary-Treasurer), Diane M. Newell (President, GBSC Congress of Christian Education), Association Moderator, and myself.

While the workshop fee for the Facilitator Orientation was \$100.00, the fee for the Participant Introduction was \$10.00, which included a Christian Discipleship Packet. In addition to Zion, workshop participants represented Bear Creek, Cedar Grove, East Carolina Progressive, East Cedar Grove, Kenansville Eastern, Middle Ground, Neuse River, New Bern Eastern, New Hope, Old Eastern, Reedy Creek, Roanoke, Tar River, Trent River, Union, Wake, and Western Union Associations of the GBSC.

With the support of the GBSC, the Associations are envisioned to be the preferred source of certificate-based education in integrative Christian discipleship. To complement this effort, as Chair of Shaw University's Department of Religion and Philosophy, I am developing a new curriculum for Associate and Baccalaureate Degree Programs in Religious Studies, oriented academically and experientially to Christian Discipleship in Church and Society. This curriculum will be developed with

2003 Calendar

June 16-20, 2003

National Baptist Congress of Christian Education
Detroit, Michigan

June 25-28, 2003

Youth Oratorical Conference
Shaw University, Raleigh, NC
Host: Dr. Paul Anderson, Moderator, Wake Association

July 17-19 2003

130th Annual Session / Trinity Convention
Host: Second Calvary Baptist Church
114 Nelson Avenue, Charlotte, NC 28216

representative leadership in the church, the academy, and the public square, committed re-building civil society.

With consideration of their life experience for academic credit, participants in the GBSC Certification Program will be encouraged to pursue undergraduate-degree education in the Center for Alternative Programs in Education (CAPE) of Shaw University at Ahoskie, Asheville, Durham, Fayetteville, Greenville, High Point, Kannapolis, Raleigh, Rocky Mount, and Wilmington, NC. Hence, as discipleship is based on the "principle of multiplication", the Certificate and the CAPE Programs will

expand mutually into the future to the Glory of God.

For more information on how your association can participate in the GBSC Certificate Program, please call Dr. Logan at 919-821-7466, or myself at 919-546-8457/8265. In this regard, please prepare now to have representation in Christian Discipleship Workshops, at the GBSC Unity Convention, from July 17-20, 2003, in Charlotte, NC. In order to plan for this workshop, we ask that the moderator or representative of each association, please fill out the following information form and send it to me. ■

Come Join US!

GBSC YOUTH ORATORICAL CONFERENCE

JUNE 25 - 28, 2003

Host University:

SHAW UNIVERSITY

118 East South Street

Raleigh, North Carolina 27501

Dr. Clarence G. Newsome, President

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Submitted By Portia Brandon, M.Div.
Christian Education Coordinator

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS Oratorical Contest 2003

1. Applicants are to complete application with all of the required information.

Applications not completely filled out will not be accepted.

2. Please ensure that all **REQUIRED** signatures are on the form.

3. Completed applications: **THE DEADLINE DATE IS JUNE 21, 2003. APPLICATIONS WILL**

NOT BE ACCEPTED ON SITE!

4. Any applications received after this date will not be accepted. It is not our intention to make this an issue; however, it is not fair to Associations who submitted their paperwork on time.

5. **PLEASE DO NOT MAIL APPLICATIONS AND SPEECHES TO THE GBSC HEADQUARTERS BUILDING. MAIL THEM TO THE ADDRESS INDICATED ON THE FORM.** It is YOUR responsibility to follow-up with me to verify that I did receive your application and speech by the required deadline!

6. Any problems that you encounter, any questions that you may have, please feel free to make contact with one of the persons listed below. *We can't help you unless we know you need help. We will do our best to assist you in any way that we can!*

Oratorical Director
Assistant Oratorical Director
Alberta H. Moore
Constance G. Finch
(910) 424-8430 (office)
(919) 834-7108 (home)
(910) 424-2104 (fax)
(919) 834-7106 (fax)
email: amoore@lewischapel.org
email: mcnair97@bellsouth.net
MOALH@AOL.COM

7. IT IS A REQUIREMENT THAT WE HAVE A COPY OF THE CONTESTANT'S SPEECH PRIOR TO THE CONTESTANT SPEAKING.

8. Please help us help you!!!

2003 ORATORICAL TOPICS

Preparatory Division - 6th, 7th, 8th grade as of July 1, 2003

1. Wait God! I Didn't Mean It
2. What If?
3. Persistence Pays
4. Right from Wrong
5. But My Friends Do It!

6. The Courage to say no
7. God Is Good
8. Keep Your Eyes on the Prize
9. Be Careful What You Say
10. Letting My Little Light Shine

Junior Division - 9th, 10th, 11th grade of July 1, 2003

1. Truth Makes a Difference
2. It's What's Inside That Counts
3. The Question Is...
4. The Lord Is My Rock
5. Faith
6. A Good Friend Is...
7. Wait for the Lord
8. No Greater Love
9. Is He Yours?
10. It's a Real Good Thing!

Senior Division - Rising High School Seniors as of July 1, 2003

1. My Help Comes From The Lord
2. The Stoplights of Life
3. Risky Business
4. What color is Love?
5. Building on a Solid Foundation
6. God Holds The Future
7. Lift Up Jesus
8. Whose World Is It Anyway?
9. There Is Hope
10. It's Gonna Be A Brighter Day
11. When Friends and Faith Disagree

At no time will a contestant or judge discuss the contestant's scores. The results of a judge's decision will be kept confidential.

The Judges will have a score sheet and a sheet for additional comments. The purpose of these comments is to help and/or enhance the contestants in future endeavors.

Selection of winners will be based

on the judge's score and any penalty points that the contestant may have received.

The Director and Assistant Director will conduct a drawing prior to the beginning of the contest, with all contestants present, for the speaking order.

Please keep in mind that you were created in the image of God. You are a good and talented person and in God's eyes, everyone is a winner!

God Bless You!

ORATIONS VS SERMONS. The title implies that this is the James F. Wertz Oratorical Contest. Not the James F. Wertz Sermon Contest. Therefore, any speech presented as a Sermon is not acceptable. The penalty is disqualification. Judges will be instructed in this matter. There is a distinct distinction between the two, when delivered.

JAMES F. WERTZ ORATORICAL CONTEST

Congress of Christian Education of the General Baptist State Convention of NC, Inc.

Speech (Oratorical) Contest Entry Form

(Contestants who have been declared winners in their ASSOCIATIONS should complete this form)

Name of Contestant: _____ ☐ M ☐ F

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone () _____

Name of Church _____

Pastor's Name _____

Association Representing _____

Moderator's Name _____

List Prior Contest In Which You Have Participated In:

Local Church _____ Association _____

Other _____ Topic _____

Division _____ Your Grade As Of July 1, 2003 _____

Signature of Sunday School Superintendent

Signature of District President

Please mail application and a COPY OF SPEECH to:

Alberta H. Moore, 5414A Raeford Rd., Fayetteville, NC 28304, or fax to (910) 424-2194. Application deadline date is June 21, 2003.

*Instructions for applications and Oratorical Topics listed in attached article.

GBSC Youth Oratorical Conference

REGISTRATION FORM

★
Deadline:
is June 13
2003

General Baptist State Convention "2003" Youth Oratorical Conference
SHAW UNIVERSITY • 118 EAST SOUTH STREET • RALEIGH, NC 27501

★ YOU
MUST BRING
YOUR OWN
BEDDING

Church Name _____ Pastor's Name _____

Address _____

Phone # _____

Youth Chaperone (s) _____

Name of Contestant _____ Name of Contestant _____

Address _____ Address _____

Phone # _____ Phone # _____

Current Grade (as of July 2003) _____ Current Grade (as of July 2003) _____

Topic _____ Topic _____

Division _____ Division _____

Name of Contestant _____ Name of Contestant _____

Address _____ Address _____

Phone # _____ Phone # _____

Current Grade (as of July 2003) _____ Current Grade (as of July 2003) _____

Topic _____ Topic _____

Division _____ Division _____

Association _____ Moderator's Name _____ Congress President _____

Names of Non-Oratorical Participants:

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 7. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 8. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 9. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 10. _____ |

REGISTRATION FEES:

Oratorical Contestants Pay
Registration.....\$0 Room & Board (3 nights, 8 meals).....\$57.00

Churches may choose one of the following options to register:

OPTION A		OPTION B (Individual Registration)	
Church Registration	\$100.00	*Youth	\$ 5.00
(Includes Pastor and all Youth)		*Adults	\$ 10.00
Room & Board (3 nights, 8 meals)	\$57.00	*Room \$10.00 per night (3)	\$30.00
Adult Chaperones/Supporters	\$ 10.00	*Meal Ticket (8 Meals) Package	\$27.00
*NOTE: Each individual will pay room & meal ticket		*NOTE: Each individual will pay all prices indicated	

YOU MUST BRING YOUR OWN BEDDING: Sheets, Pillow Cases, Pillows and Blankets!!!

Please make every effort to pre-register your church on or before **JUNE 13, 2003**
(We must turn in a projected headcount to the University.) **THANK YOU!**

For questions or assistance please contact:
Alberta H. Moore at (910) 424-8430 or Constance G. Finch at (919) 834-7108

Make all Checks/Money Orders Payable To:

GBSC, Attn: Portia Brandon
603 South Wilmington St., Raleigh, NC 27601

LAYMEN'S LEAGUE NEWS

The North Carolina State Laymen's League Auxiliary
sponsors the



Annual Laymen's Retreat for Men and Boys

"To Serve The Present Age"
Ephesians 4:11-12

Session I: July 9-10, 2003 • Session II: July 11-12, 2003

PURPOSE

To provide men and boys the opportunity to participate in worship, Bible study, counseling, Nature study, crafts, and recreation in a Christian Environment.

ACTIVITIES

The activities provided are Bible study, swimming, talent show, basketball, softball, horseshoe, checkers, lectures, Bible drills, worship services, workshops, watermelon feast and marshmallow roast.

WHAT TO BRING

Two sheets, bath and face towels, one pillow, pillow case, soap and other toiletries, a blanket, flash light, Bible, pencils and paper. *Please do not bring a radio or valuables!*

FEE & SCHEDULE

\$25.00 per person

Arrival time in 9:30 - 11:30 AM each session. Departure time is 1:30 PM each session.

LOCATION

The location of the Baptist Assembly is on a rolling 62 acre tract, ten miles northwest of Laurinburg in Scotland County on Bunch Road.

IMPORTANT Registration Policy

1. Campers are taken on first come, first serve basis until facilities are filled.
2. If the session you request is filled at the time your application is received, you may be reassigned to the other session, pending verification from the contact person indicated on your application. Please designate one contact person for each church.
3. Completed registration forms with required fees must be mailed by June 25, 2003.
4. There will be no on-site registration. For more information or directions call Baptist Headquarters (919) 821-7466.

Talent Show • Ideas for performances:

Skits • Songs • Rap (that is considered with the theme) • Oration • Poems
Rules: Must be Christian or theme oriented. No unsportsmanship (booing, heckling, etc.). Men and Boys may participate.

Please make copies of this form and complete an individual registration for each man or boy:

Please detach registration form and mail by JUNE 25, 23003 with check payable to:
General Baptist State Convention

The North Carolina State Laymen's League, 603 S. Wilmington St., Raleigh, NC 27601

Name _____ Age _____

Grade _____ Address _____

Church _____ Pastor _____

Church Location _____

Parent's Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Parent's Signature: _____

Do you have any known health problems or allergies? _____

Session Requested: ☐ I. July 9-10 or ☐ II. July 11-12

Contact Person: _____

Home Phone _____ Business or Cell _____

REGISTRATION AND REPRESENTATION FORM

LAYMEN'S LEAGUE, CONGRESS AND USHERS TRINITY SESSION

DR. CHARLES T. BULLOCK, PRESIDENT
DR. ARCHIE D. LOGAN, JR., EXECUTIVE SECRETARY TREASURER

July 17 - 19, 2003

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PASTOR _____

ASSOCIATION _____

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YOUR NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIPCODE _____

YOUR PHONE () _____ Email: _____

REGISTRATION

PERSONAL REGISTRATION \$10.00 PER PERSON

NUMBER OF MESSENGERS: _____ @ \$10.00 EACH AMOUNT \$ _____

CHURCH REGISTRATION:
\$200.00 FOR THE SESSION AMOUNT \$ _____

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☐ Laymen ☐ Congress ☐ Ushers

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DEADLINE: JUNE 16, 2003

General Board Report

By Dr. John H. Grant
Vice President At Large



Dr. John H. Grant

Recent Management Letter: Dr. Logan prepared for the General Board a written response to issues raised. The Convention auditor or an Internal Audit Committee is to follow-up and review the response to determine if any additional action is needed. Following is a summary of Dr. Logan's response to each issue.

- a) Accounting Policies and Procedures
 - Staff will submit a Revised Accounting & Procedures Manual to the General Board by April 30, 2003.
- b) Internal Controls
 - "...Appropriate segregation of duties...have (sic) been achieved."
- c) Disbursements
 - Staff will conduct an internal audit of all vendor documentation. Expected completion date is March 31, 2003.
- d) Due to Designated Objectives
 - Analysis in process analyzing cash flow to determine appropriate payment plan to reduce debt to Convention objectives. To be completed by staff by March 31 and April 14, 2003. (Crucial questions yet to be answered: Why is there such a significant delay in designated gifts getting to their designation? Are designated gifts being used for other purposes with the intent of replacing those gifts at a later time?)
- e) Bookstore operations
 - Dr. Logan clarified that the bookstore is not closed but is being managed currently by volunteers.
- f) Bank Accounts
 - Staff will review bank account names to ensure accounts are maintained in the Convention's name.
- g) Unrestricted Net Assets Deficit
 - Staff will implement specific steps as outlined by Dr. Logan.
- h) Long Range Planning
 - Dr. Logan submitted a "Debt Reduction & Development Plan" dated and submitted on 12/19/02 to address long range Planning.
- i) Center for Health and Healing, Inc. (the Center)

- An update from Anita Holmes is forthcoming.
- j) Assets Restricted to Investment in Land and Buildings
 - Response Pending.
- 2. Convention staff compiled a compendium, covering the last 10 years, of all policies and/or resolutions adopted by the General Board and Convention that are relevant to the ongoing operations of the Board and Convention.
- 3. Convention staff prepared an itemized statement of income and expenses for each of the following: a) 2002 Housing Banquet, b) 2003 MLK Banquet, c) 2003 MLK late night Evangelistic Service.
- 4. Staff has been directed to prepare a General Board Orientation Manual, after which a Board Orientation Retreat will be scheduled for all current Board members.
- 5. The Constitution and By-Laws Committee, chaired by Dr. James Smith, is charged to draft by-laws and necessary revisions to our current Constitution.
- 6. The Board is to adopt Conflict of Interest and Code of Conduct Policy for Board members.
- 7. The Board directed staff to request a formal written opinion from our Convention Auditor as to whether all current insurance (D & O, crime protection for forgery, etc.) carried by the Convention is satisfactory.
- 8. The Board will conduct a Board Self-Assessment Process.
- 9. The Unified Program: The Board recommended that the President appoint a task force to address and evaluate, among other things, Unified Program percentages allocated to Convention Objectives. This task force would involve representatives from the Objectives and make recommendations about revising, updating, etc., the Unified program.
- 10. The Board will review and follow-up on a project report from Next Steps d/b/a Care To Remember, Inc., commissioned in November of 1999. The project objective was "To promote the internal objectives of the organization while removing duplication of functions, offices and roles resulting in a more effective and efficient organization."

All General Board members, please note the following schedule of upcoming Board Meetings.

- **July 8, 2003, 11:15 a.m.** at the First Cosmopolitan Baptist Church, Raleigh with Dr. W. B. Lewis, host pastor.
- **September 30, 2003, 11:15 a.m.** at Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, Winston-Salem with Dr. A. Thomas Griffey, III, host pastor.

Reflections from the 136th Mid-Year Session

By Dr. Howard W. Parker, Jr.
First Vice President



Dr. Howard Parker, Jr.

On Sunday, May 4th, 2003 the Members of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina started gathering, in large numbers, at Sycamore Hill Missionary Baptist Church, in Greenville, for the Mid-Year Session with a Concert at 7 p.m. Dr. Howard W. Parker, Jr., is the Pastor. The Concert was rendered as follows: Sycamore Hill Mass Choir, directed by Mr. Walter Bolden, followed by the youth Praise Dancers of Hayes Chapel Missionary Baptist Church of Pictolas, the Rev. Billy Boyd, Pastor. After greetings by Dr. Charles T. Bullock, GBSC President, Dr. Archie D. Logan, Jr., GBSC Executive Secretary-Treasurer and the Rev. Reginald Wells, GBSC Program Chairman, the Concert was concluded with the Youth Choir of the St. Peter Missionary Baptist Church of Greenville, Rev. Daniel House, Pastor, and the Bear Creek Missionary Baptist Associational Choir of Goldsboro, under the direction of Dr. Ben Johnson. Dr. Willie J. Cox is the Moderator of the Bear Creek Association.

As our Convention strives to serve this present age, our President instructed our Program Chairman to have some training and learning sessions during the Mid-Year Session. Thus, we continued to 'exalt His name together' through Dean J. T. Robertson of Shaw University Divinity School and his Staff for conducting classes on Church and Community Leadership, Spiritual Discipline and Women's Ministry and Baptist History and Polity. These classes will count for those who attended for credits from Shaw University Divinity School for continuing education courses.

We 'exalted His name together' through Mr. Dexter Perry of the General Baptist Foundation, Inc., who conducted classes on How To Live On A Fixed Income for senior citizens.

We 'exalted His name together' through Dr. William A. Thurston who

conducted the Certificate Program Class in Christian Discipleship. This was the largely attended class which filled one side of the Sanctuary and this class even met after President Charles T. Bullock officially closed the convention on Wednesday afternoon for their students to complete make-up work. All classes were conducted Monday morning and afternoon at the church.

We 'exalted His name together' with fellowship through lunch on Monday, May 5th and it was even enjoyed by the Convention's Health people, hosted by the Old Eastern Missionary Baptist Association, Dr. Charles Bell, Moderator; Bear Creek Missionary Baptist Association, Dr. Willie J. Cox, Moderator; Middle Ground Association, Rev. Walter Cherry, Moderator; New Bern Eastern

Association, Rev. Frederick Fisher, Moderator; Trent River Oakey Grove Association, Dr. W. K. Raynor, Moderator; and East Pamlico River Association, Rev.

Charles Smith, Moderator. The free-of-charge Pig Pickin' was held on the church grounds, but moved inside the Matthew T. Lewis Fellowship Hall, of the church, due to weather conditions.

Of course, it would not have been a Convention without some good preaching, and this Mid-Year Session was no exception. Therefore, 'we magnified the Lord together' with Dr. A. Lincoln James, Pastor of the Trinity Baptist Church in Richmond, VA, who shared with us a sermon entitled, "Sit Down And Shut Up". However, our former President, Dr. J. R. Manley, Pastor, First Baptist Church, Chapel Hill, preached with the anointing of the Holy Spirit. Dr. John Mendez, Pastor, Emmanuel Baptist Church, Winston-Salem, and our President Dr. Charles T. Bullock lit our souls on fire with 'Preaching at Its Best'.

But also 'we magnified the Lord together' through our Evangelism Committee, chaired by Dr. Robert E. McGowens, Pastor Galilee Baptist Church, Winston-Salem, who scheduled the Rev. Charles Howard, Pastor of St. John Missionary Baptist Church, Falkland, and the Rev. Quientree Burrell, Jr., Pastor, First Baptist Church, Weldon, preached God's Word to those who enjoyed a Late Night Word of Preaching.

By Rev. Nilous M. Avery, II - M. Div.
2nd Vice-President

Thanks Staff



Rev. Nilous
Avery, II

"To the
(General Baptist
Family) of
Greetings Sis.
Carol & all @
GBSC!

Thank you all
for a job
"WELL DONE"
along w/Dr.
Parker in
Greenville. The
work you do is
energizing and
uplifted. I

appreciate your commitment and efficiency. You all are THE BEST! Happy Womanhood/ Mother's Day to all (women are mothers spiritually, biologically, socially, and culturally). God bless!

Nilous Avery, II

"To all in [the General Baptist family] who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God through Jesus

Christ for all of you, because your faith is being reported all over the world" (Romans 1:7-8, NIV).

The story is told about a man who was walking down the street and pulling a chain behind him. Several individuals asked him why he was pulling the chain. He replied with an interesting question of his own: "Did you ever try to push one?" The idea of *pushers* and *pullers* has existed through the ages.

In Jesus' day, the Caesars, the centurions, and the religious leaders symbolized *pushers* who sought to destroy Jesus and push people against their will. When *pushers* spoke, people were expected to jump in submissive and oppressive obedience.

Jesus provided an insightful directive to the twelve original disciples in Matthew 20:25-26 (NIV): "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to be great among you must be your servant."

Walter Rauschenbusch suggests that

Jesus chose the kind of people he did to follow Him because Jesus wanted to influence the world with a new kind of leadership – one that would serve and not exploit (*The Social Principles of Jesus*). Jesus sought people who would not be spoiled by success and poisoned by the possession of power. The search continues today!

According to Clarence Cranford, Jesus' idea of leadership clashed with the popular thought of that day (*Taught by the Master*). Many thought of leadership as climbing on top of people to gain position and power. Jesus' idea of leadership emphasized getting underneath people and their problems, and trying to lift them to a new life, a new hope, a new purpose, and a new fulfillment.

Jesus is our exemplary model:

"...the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve" (Matthew 20:28, NIV). Therefore, we must be servants of Christ in our homes, churches, to our communities, and the world. We have been saved in order to serve. We must

serve with compassion, not confusion. We are equipped, enabled, empowered, and endowed by the Holy Spirit to be:

- Pullers, not pushers,
- Lifters, not oppressors,
- Persuaders, not dictators,
- Missionaries, not "messy-naries"!

One way we can live out or call to be *pullers* and not *pushers* is through our support of the Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Convention. Numerous initiatives are provided through this arm of the foreign mission field. In the next few months, this ministry will provide information and inspiration on several initiatives that will provide opportunities for individuals, local churches, associations, unions, and others to invest in Lott Carey's objective of "building a better world through Christian missions".

"To the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen."

(Romans 16:27, NIV)

Contact: Reverend Nilous M. Avery, II, P. O. Box 2767, Salisbury, NC 28145-2767, phone 704-637-0954 (c); 704-637-1137 (fax); averyrevkin@aol.com (e-mail).

HISTORICAL OBSERVATION

Fellowshipping with Rev. Dr. Samuel Raper

By Dr. Jasper P. Reed, Historian, GBSC

It is not easy, with all the information I have, to finalize, a topic or subject to write about in this column. Such was the case for this month's article. When I



Dr. Jasper
Reed

find myself in this predicament, I do as Isaiah said, I wait on the Lord. While en route to Greenville for the GBSC mid-year session the Spirit spoke to me. Why not spend a day in the life of Rev. Dr. Sam Raper?

I had no way of knowing whether or not he would be there, but moving in faith I set about to be obedient to the Spirit. I shared my thoughts with the Statistician as I sought to locate Dr. Raper. As the Lord would have it, I found him attending the Monday Evening services. I asked for permission to sit with him on Tuesday and he agreed. I had seen him in many venues and found myself awed by what might be forthcoming during

this luncheon talk. What I encountered was a very fertile and historically rich mind. Rather than an hour or two, I needed weeks to capture the essence of his experiences.

Please let me introduce him to you based on the limited time and facts I have been able to glean in my short fellowship period with him. He was born in Athens, Georgia. He was one of ten siblings whose mother died when the youngest was four months old. His young life was interrupted by Boll Weevils. His family was cotton growers, and they moved to Shelby in Cleveland County, North Carolina. His past reference to cotton and its contribution to his livelihood now makes sense.

He was able to attend the first high school for blacks in Cleveland County. He shared this experience with the father of our Executive Secretary-Treasurer Dr. A. D. Logan, Jr. He and the elder Logan played football on the same team. Dr. Raper was an industrious young man. He was a shipyard worker along the Atlantic Coast. He had gone as far north as Hartford, Connecticut when the Lord began to reorganize his life and order his steps. It was there that the Lord called him into His Service. He left Connecticut and returned to Shelby,

North Carolina for he knew that if he were to serve the Lord he had to prepare himself for the journey ahead. He entered Friendship Junior College in Rock Hill, South Carolina where he began to prepare for his ministry. He earned an A.A. degree and a Bachelor of Theology degree. He began to pastor in Cleveland County. In addition, he had a pastorate in South Carolina. He can recall having three churches at one time. He was called to pastor Bethel Baptist Church, the first station Church, in Brevard, North Carolina. It was here, in 1953, that he started tithing and is still tithing to this date. So impacting was his commitment that the entire Church started tithing. This was the first known demonstration, of this faith level among black churches in North Carolina.

Dr. Raper led the first church to make regular monthly contributions to the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc. He did this for fifteen years. In retrospect it was one of the many things that called my attention to him as I talked with him. I remember him bringing a check himself and, while at headquarters, purchasing tickets for multiple tables at the Martin Luther King Banquet. While he was in Brevard, he was instrumental in Transylvania County

becoming the first county in North Carolina to fully integrate all of its services in 1962. He was called to Mt. Calvary Baptist Church in Shelby where he served until he retired. During this pastoral tenure, he was elected to the City Council becoming the first black democrat to serve in this capacity in 1976. Dr. Raper served on the council for twenty-five years. Through it all, the Lord blessed him to marry and gave him two children, a boy and a girl. Both are still making him proud even as we write. By God's grace, he was able to start a grocery business and embarked upon a real estate venture, both are ongoing and serving the needs of the community.

When asked to what does he contribute his ministerial success and his longevity, he scriptural references that which is summarized in Deuteronomy 14:22-29. Here Moses was laying the foundation for serving the Lord. He boldly proclaims that if you tithe, the Lord will multiply your resources, meet your needs and will provide for your wants. If your faith level is high enough to do this, then you too will be able to praise the Lord for all that He has and will do for you.

Prayertizing Scripture

By Dr. Donaldson Jones, President



Dr. Donaldson Jones

Prayertizing Scripture is a method of prayer, Pastor Jones uses to enrich his on prayer life. This method is simply using the basic elements of prayer with a scripture of choice.

The Basic elements of Prayer are:

1. Adoration - which is praise and thanksgiving to God.
2. Confession - to confess our sin to God.
3. Intercession and Petition
 - A. Intercession - we pray for others
 - B. Petition - we pray for ourselves
4. Dedication - we surrender to God, ourselves for his purpose and service.
 - Each element is a prayer for within itself.

The Lord's Prayer, Matt. 6:9-13 is an intercessory prayer, including the other

elements just mentioned. All public prayer should be basically intercessory.

Example Scripture:

Psalms 23:1 - "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want."

Adoration - Thanksgiving and Praise

Dear Lord and Shepherd, we know that you are Lord of all creation as well as the creator of our souls. We praise you for making us and as shepherd, knowing us, caring for us and always supplying our needs.

Confession - We admit we have at times, like sheep gone astray. We have gone our own way.

Intercession and Petition - Lord, lead us back to the path of righteousness and forgive us that we might be able to regroup and follow your will. It is my desire as with all your children here today, to seek you will as you reveal it.

Dedication - Where ever you lead, we will follow, and Dear Lord whatever you say, we shall obey by the power of your Holy Spirit helping us. In Jesus Name, we pray.

Amen.

May God grant that your prayer pilgrimage be a joyful journey with Jesus.

General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina

3RD Trinity Annual Sessions

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130th Annual Congress of Christian Education

54 Annual Usher's

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CHARLOTTE, North Carolina

Theme: "TO SERVE THE PRESENT AGE " EPHESIAN 4:11&12(KJV)

July 17 - 19, 2003

DR. CHARLES T. BULLOCK
President, GBSC

DR. ARCHIE D. LOGAN
Executive Secretary-Treasurer, GBSC

STATISTICIAN'S NEWS

Peace Be Unto You: What Are You Doing Here

By Dr. A.T. Griffey, III
Statistician



Dr. A.T. Griffey, III

In the last several messages, we have considered the prophet Elijah as he was used by God to miraculously confront the 450 prophets of Baal, but then sink into a deep despair when threatened by Queen Jezebel, "I have had enough Lord, take my life" (1 Kings 19:4). We saw how God demonstrated His compassion, sent Elijah on a forty day journey through the desert, and revealed His presence in a gentle whisper (1 Kings 19:12). But after all this, God had a very serious question for Elijah.

1 Kings 19:13 "Then a voice said unto him, 'What are you doing here, Elijah'"

Obviously, the question was not in reference to Elijah's physical location; God had called Elijah to the exact place he

was standing. Though He already knew the answer, God was asking Elijah what had brought him to this Spiritually defeated condition. Elijah had been given the opportunity to talk with God, witness His power, and actually stand in His presence; yet, he was filled with doubt and felt terribly alone; "I am the only one left" (1 Kings 19:14).

Once again, God could have lectured Elijah on his lack of faith. Instead, in His mercy, God gave Elijah the reassurance he needed to continue; "I reserve seven thousand in Israel - all whose knees have not bowed down to Baal" (1 Kings 19:18). God encouraged Elijah that there were many others fighting this same battle. He also gave Elijah a companion who would walk with him for the remainder of His ministry; "Anoint Elisha to succeed you as prophet" (1 Kings 19:17).

Jesus Christ died as a sacrifice for our sin so we could be restored to a loving relationship with our Heavenly Father. This relationship saves us from an eternal death in the fiery pits of hell; but it also allows us to be saved from the despair, fear, loneliness, and lack of purpose which surrounds us in the world today.

We are eternally saved by God's grace

through faith in Jesus Christ. But as we walk, we must trust God to daily save us from the effects of a fallen world and our own weak and sinful nature. We must never be afraid or ashamed to tell God exactly how we feel; "I'm weak and lonely, Lord, I need You!" Nothing we say will ever surprise God or cause Him to let us go.

Our Heavenly Father has called us to examine our heart, confess our condition, and trust Him for the solution - He has called us to be saved! Our strength in the Lord will often depend on recognizing and admitting our weakness. Let's strive to live each day in His presence; but let's also be prepared to respond honestly and without fear when God asks: "What are you doing here?"

Have a Great Day!

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Fulfilling Your Destiny

By Delores Griffey

A lot of youth and teens are entering the summer for jobs, summer school, summer camps and visiting grandparents,



Dolores
Griffey

always, he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail. (NIV).

Destiny means the future of things and events that are to happen, compelled by someone or something. In the above scriptures other words for destiny are “plans” and “thoughts”. God has plans for us. Isaiah 58:11 tell us that he has “thoughts” for us, which is the same as saying He has plans for our lives. We need to be chasing after God to receive those plans.

Jeremiah 29:11 states that He already knows the plans He has for us, it is already on the table. Further down to verses 13 & 14, it gives us the key to finding our destiny, which is to seek God with all our hearts. The answer is given,

Isaiah 58:11
states: *The Lord
will guide you*

How do we search for God with all our hearts? We must yell for God just as we would yell to our friends! Jeremiah

33:3 states *“Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.”* We can call out to our parents and to God. We should search for God the way we’d search for a lost child.

Psalm 33:11 states that the plans of God's hear stand for all generations. His plans never die no matter how long we wait or how much we mess up! The Hebrew definition for the word "plan" is "the idea and way God determines or intends for us to go; allows a role for us to

play.” Thus destiny is the place where our future and present meet, the place that we have the maximum impact on our surroundings and future. It begins now!

Jesus said in John 4:10, *"If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water."* In John 7:38 He also said, *"He who believes in Me as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."* It all goes back to Jesus. He is our living water.

Isaiah 58:11 in the New Living Translation states *"The Lord will guide you continually, watering your life when you are dry and keeping you healthy, too. You will be like a well-watered garden, like an ever-flowing spring."*

According to Isaiah 58:9-10 there are

certain steps to becoming a well-watered garden:

- Do away with yokes! Jesus said in Matthew 12:30, "*For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.*" We shouldn't put heavy things on anyone, but instead simply let them be led by leadership, the Holy Spirit, and the Word. If a yoke seems heavy then it is NOT from God.

- Do away with pointing fingers of accusation, judgment, condemnation and gossip. Instead, continually cleanse your heart with the living water. We should be a caring people who prays for

others!

- Spend yourself on behalf of the hungry. We must recognize the needy and hungry in our midst and make extra effort to care. People want to know you care before they listen to what you say. Remember, God watches what we do for the needy and rewards us accordingly.

- Satisfy the afflicted soul. Also help those who are oppressed by praying for their oppression to be broken. Intercede for others.

In order to fulfill our destiny we must belong to a good church to receive the benefits needed to guide us in our walk with Christ. We do not have to be perfect, just hungry! Now is the time to stay focused, hear God and stay with God's plan. Fulfill your destiny!!!

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INSTITUTIONAL & SPECIALIZED MINISTRIES

Curriculum Vitae

Reverend Betty Ann Brown, daughter of the late Willie Lee and Alice T. Brown has always been one with a "Trail Blazing Spirit". She preached her initial sermon and was the first woman to be licensed and ordained in the history of First Calvary Baptist Church, Durham, North Carolina, as it celebrated its Centennial year. She is the first woman to be ordained by the ecclesiastical council of the East Cedar Grove Baptist Association. She planned and coordinated the first Statewide North Carolina Women's Conference. Now, she is honored to be the first woman to serve as the Chaplaincy Services Director for the Division of Prisons in North Carolina. She is an articulate and personable vessel of honor in the Kingdom of God.

Proverbs 31:26 says, "*She opens her mouth with Wisdom, and the teaching of Kindness is on her tongue.*" Her unique style and extraordinary personality is a joy to be around. Reverend Brown's Ministerial experience includes: Christian Education Director, East End Baptist Tabernacle Church and Protestant Worship Service Coordinator, Astoria Park Rest Home, Bridgeport, Connecticut; Chaplain Intern, Asbury Hill United Methodist Camp, Cleveland, South Carolina; Chaplain Intern, Durham Regional Hospital; Ministerial Intern, Community Baptist Church; Research

Intern for the Black Church Affairs Office, Duke University Divinity School; Contractual Minister of Christian Education, First Calvary Baptist Church; Clinical Pastoral Education, Veteran Hospital, Durham, North Carolina; Clinical Chaplain, North Carolina Correctional Institution for Women, Raleigh, North Carolina.



Rev. Betty Ann Brown

Reverend Brown utilizes her excellence in Christian administration as a lecturer at leadership symposiums, preaching at conventions, facilitating educational

gatherings, conducting workshops and seminars, leading retreats, planning and coordinating women's conferences.

Reverend Betty Brown was born and reared in Durham, North Carolina, where she received her early education. She received her undergraduate degree in Criminal Justice from North Carolina Central University, Durham, North Carolina. She used the Word of God as her road map which led her to Hartford Seminary, Hartford, Connecticut, to earn a Master in Religious Studies, with a concentration in Lay Ministries; and a Master of Divinity Degree from Duke University Divinity School, Durham, North Carolina. She is a Duke Langford recipient and a Dean's Scholar.

She has one daughter, India L. Brown, and is the proud grandmother of Master Rimini S

Crime & Incarceration Conference

By Michael R. Smith, Sr., Chairman

Dear Co-laborers,

The 3rd Annual Crime & Incarceration Conference will be held on August 1-2, 2003. The theme is "Strategies To Reach Our At-Risk Youth".

Please help with the following:

- Advise you you will be attending.
- Suggestions for a worship music during the conference.
- Please copy the flyer and put the information in public places, church-

es, internet, et.



Rev. Michael Smith, Sr.

• Share any particular input or insights you may have about the conference that would make for a better conference.

Thank you

GBSC 3rd Annual Crime & Incarceration CONFERENCE

Theme - "STRATEGIES TO REACH OUR AT-RISK YOUTH"

AUGUST 1 - 2, 2003

HISTORIC SHAW UNIVERSITY DIVINITY SCHOOL
Raleigh, NC

For more information contact

Michael R. Smith, Sr.

Office - 919 575-3900 ext. 6203 / mrsmith@bop.gov

Home - mrsmithgbsc@aol.com

GBSC Headquarters

Tel. 919 821-7466 or 800 63-GBSC / Fax 919 836-0061

www.gbsc.org.

This conference is an opportunity for churches and all other interested persons to come to be educated, to work and share toward the goal of developing strategies to more effectively reach out to our at-risk youth in the communities of this state.

Registration: ♦ Churches \$100 ♦ Individual \$25

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IMPORTANT ISM ANNOUNCEMENTS

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August 1 - 2, 2003

Theme - "Strategies To Reach Our At-Risk Youth"

Historic Shaw University Divinity School - Raleigh, NC

Church Registration \$100.00 / Individual Registration \$25.00

*CALL FOR CRIME & INCARCERATION SUNDAY

Theme: "A Day Of Awareness, Education And Outreach"

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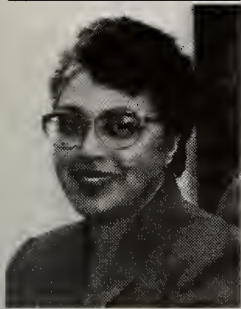
Contact Information- Michael R. Smith, Sr., M. Div.

O - (919) 575-3900 x 6203 / mrsmith@bop.gov

H - mrsmithgbsc@aol.com or disciplescross@aol.com

By Anita P. Holmes, JD, MPH,
Executive Director

Heart Attacks - You Can Reduce Your Risks



Dr. Anita Holmes

In the United States, coronary heart disease is the leading cause of death for both men and women. There are several factors WE can control to reduce our risks. The following discussion is excerpted from the National Heart, Lung, and

Blood Institute web site. For further information you may go online to www.nhlbi.nih.gov/actintime.

Reducing Heart Attack Risk

You can reduce your risk of having a heart attack – even if you already have coronary heart disease (CHD) or have had a previous heart attack. The key is to take steps to prevent or control your heart disease risk factors.

Six Key Steps To Reduce Heart Attack Risk

Taking these steps will reduce your risk of having a heart attack:

- Stop smoking
- Lower high blood pressure
- Reduce high blood cholesterol
- Aim for a healthy weight
- Be physically active each day
- Manage diabetes

Stop Smoking Cigarettes

Cigarette smoking greatly increases the risk of fatal and nonfatal heart attacks in both men and women. It also increases the risk of a second heart attack among survivors. Women who smoke and use oral contraceptives have an even greater risk than smoking alone. The good news is that quitting smoking greatly reduces the risk of heart attack. One year after quitting, the risk drops to about one-half that of current smokers and gradually returns to normal in persons without heart disease. Even among persons with heart disease, the risk also drops sharply one year after quitting smoking and it continues to decline over time but the risk does not return to normal.

Lower High Blood Pressure

High blood pressure makes the heart work harder. It increases the risk of developing heart disease, as well as kidney disease and stroke.

Also called hypertension, it usually has no symptoms. Once developed, it typically lasts a lifetime.

Blood pressure is recorded as two numbers – the systolic pressure (as the heart beats) over the diastolic pressure (as the heart relaxes). For example, a

measurement would be written as 120/80 mm Hg (millimeters of mercury).

Normal blood pressure is less than 130 mm Hg systolic and less than 85 mm Hg diastolic. An optimal blood pressure is less than 120 mm Hg systolic and less than 80 mm diastolic. A consistent blood pressure reading of 140/90 mm Hg or higher is considered high blood pressure. If the systolic and diastolic pressures fall into different categories, the higher category is used to classify blood pressure status.

To help prevent or control high blood pressure, you should: lose excess weight, become physically active; follow a heart healthy eating plan, including foods lower in salt and sodium; limit alcohol intake; and, if you are prescribed a medication, take it as directed.

The main types of high blood pressure medications are: diuretics, beta-blockers, angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors, angiotensin antagonists, calcium channel blockers, alpha blockers, alpha-beta blockers, nervous system inhibitors, and vasodilators. It's important that you take medication as prescribed and control your blood pressure to below 140/90 mm Hg.

Reduce High Blood Cholesterol

The level of cholesterol in the bloodstream greatly affects the risk of developing heart disease. The higher the level of blood cholesterol, the greater the risk for heart disease or heart attack.

Why? When there is too much cholesterol (a fat-like substance) in the blood, it builds up in the walls of arteries. Over time, this buildup causes arteries to become narrowed, and blood flow to the heart is slowed or blocked. If the blood supply to a portion of the heart is completely cut off, a heart attack results.

Various factors affect cholesterol levels: diet, weight, physical activity, age and gender, and heredity.

High blood cholesterol itself does not cause symptoms. You may not know your blood cholesterol level is too high. So, it's important to have your cholesterol measured. Adults age 20 or older should have their cholesterol checked at least once every 5 years. It is best to have a blood test called a lipoprotein profile. This test measures total cholesterol, "good" and "bad" cholesterol, as well as triglycerides, another form of fat in the blood.

High cholesterol is treated with lifestyle changes – a heart healthy eating plan, physical activity, and loss of excess

weight – and, if those do not lower it enough, medication. Medications include statins, bile acid sequestrants, nicotinic acid, and fibric acids.

Six Key Steps To Reduce Heart Attack Risk

- Stop smoking
- Lower high blood pressure
- Reduce high blood cholesterol
- Aim for a healthy weight
- Be physically active each day
- Manage diabetes

Aim for a Healthy Weight

A healthy weight is crucial for a long, healthy life. In 1999, almost 108 million – or 61 percent of adults in the United States were overweight or obese. Being overweight or obese increases your risk of heart attack. And, it increases your risk of developing high blood cholesterol, high blood pressure, and diabetes – each one of which also increases your chance of having a heart attack. If you are overweight, even a small weight loss – just 10 percent of your current weight – will help to lower your risk of developing those diseases.

Two of the measures that assess whether or not a person is overweight are body mass index (BMI) and waist circumference. BMI is a measure of weight relative to height. Waist circumference measures abdominal fat. The risk for developing heart and other diseases increases with a waist measurement of more than 40 inches in men and more than 35 inches in women.

To be at their best, adults need to avoid gaining weight and many need to lose weight. Losing weight and keeping it off depends on a change of lifestyle that combines sensible eating with regular physical activity, not a temporary effort to drop pounds quickly. If you need to lose excess weight, talk with your health care provider about developing an action plan, which includes a heart-healthy, low-calorie, nutritious eating plan and physical activity.

Manage Diabetes

Diabetes mellitus affects more than 16 million Americans. It damages blood vessels, including the coronary arteries of the heart. Up to 75 percent of those with diabetes develop heart and blood vessel diseases.

Diabetes occurs when the body is not able to use sugar as it should for growth and energy. The body gets sugar when it changes food into glucose (a form of sugar). A hormone called

insulin is needed for the glucose to be taken up and used by the body.

Symptoms of diabetes include: increased thirst and urination, weight loss, and blurred vision, hunger, fatigue, frequent infections, and slow healing of wounds or sores.

There are two main types of diabetes: insulin-dependent, or type 1, and non-insulin-dependent, or type 2. Type 1 usually appears suddenly and most commonly in those under age 30. Type 2 diabetes occurs gradually and most often in those over age 40. Up

to 95 percent of those with diabetes have type 2. You're more likely to develop type 2 if you are overweight or obese, especially with extra weight around the middle, over age 40, have high blood pressure, or have a family history of diabetes. Diabetes is particularly prevalent among African-Americans, Asians, and Native Americans.

Because of the link with heart disease, it's important for those with diabetes to prevent or control heart disease and its risk factors.

Fortunately, new research shows that the same steps that reduce the risk of heart disease also lower the chance of developing type 2 diabetes. And, for those who already have diabetes, those steps, along with taking any prescribed medication, also can delay or prevent the development of complications of diabetes, such as eye disease and nerve damage.

According to the research, a 7 percent loss of body weight and 150 minutes of moderate-intensity physical activity a week can reduce the chance of developing diabetes by 58 percent in those who are at high risk. The lifestyle changes cut the risk of developing type 2 diabetes regardless of age, ethnicity, gender, or weight.

To reduce the risk of developing diabetes, as well as heart disease, you should:

- Follow a heart healthy eating plan, which is low in saturated fat and cholesterol, and moderate in total fat.
- Aim for a healthy weight.
- Be physically active each day – try to do 30 minutes of moderate-intensity physical activity such as brisk walking on most and, preferably, all days of the week.
- Don't smoke.
- Prevent or control high blood pressure.
- Prevent or control high blood cholesterol.

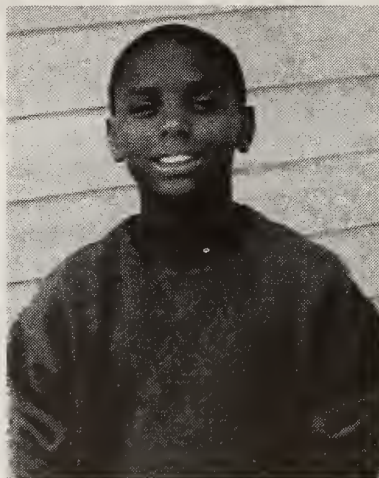
ADOPTION AND FOSTER CARE NEWS

Introducing Tyrene and Rasheen

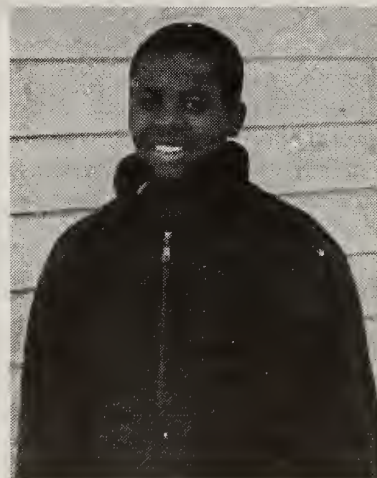
Tyrene and Rasheen are twin brothers that are as much alike as they are different. It is very important to them to find a caring adoptive family that will love and adopt them both. Attending church and singing in the choir are also important to both boys.

A Closer Look at Tyrene

Tyrene is friendly, outgoing and energetic with a dynamic smile that matches his high energy level. He is a charming, easy-going and straightforward boy who gets along well with other kids. Tyrene is athletic and enjoys playing on a recreational basketball team. Tyrene attends a special resource class at school for general help with all areas of school. He needs to work on not talking too much, especially in class. Birthday: December 18, 1990



TYRENE
Birthdate: December 18, 1990



RASHEEN
Birthdate: December 18, 1990

A Closer Look at Rasheen

Rasheen is a bit more reserved than his brother, but he is friendly and

generally pretty laid back. He likes to ride his bike and be outside working in the yard. Rasheen also

likes to play with miniature men and remote control cars. He, too, attends a special resource class at school, but it is believed that he can do much better if he applies himself. Rasheen lacks motivation to work academically or around the house. Birthday: December 18, 1990

A Family for Tyrene and Rasheen

These twins would benefit from a family that will be able to motivate them both academically. Their adoptive family should provide them with stability, structure, love and patience. They should also have experience with children with special needs and learning disabilities.

(NC #078-0787) (NC #078-0788) For more information on these children or adoption in general, please call the NC Kids Adoption and Foster Care Network's toll free Hotline at 1-877-625-4371.

I Want My Mommie

By Earl Horton, Director of Public Relations
Adoption and Foster Care Ministry

Every May we celebrate Mother's Day for the contributions that our mothers



Earl Horton

have made and sacrificed for us to be productive adults in society. From the beginning of time, from the beginning of the world, our mothers have built the foundation or the very fabric that exists today. It all started when they gave birth to us. Their natural ability to nurture to protect us from harm was extraordinary. They are the ones who changed our diapers, fed us, and an occasional burp to make sure that we are feeling good. She was the one who tended to us when we were sick and wished that she could bare the pain, but could not share it with you. They are women who taught us the ways and habits that will mold us into adulthood. Sometimes she may think that she has not done an excellent job especially if you have not turned out like you should. She is the one person that you can always depend on.

The children who exist in the child

welfare system either in foster care or in children group homes must spend another Mother's Day without the woman that gave birth to them. The woman who brought them in this world is not the one who is nurturing them. Remember in pre-school or kindergarten on the first day of school your parents would take you to school on the first day. They would meet your teacher and stay long enough to make sure that you get comfortable in your new class. When everything seems fine your parents would leave you and your mind starts to wonder. The tears of despair start to flow because they are not there. What is the next response? "I want my Mommie!" From then all the composure that was there is no more. Your mother is no where to be found because she has left the school already. What can you do now?

"I want my mommie" for the foster child is different from the birth child. The difference is that the foster child is the responsibility of the foster parents. The foster mother must gain the trust of child, and nurture him or her as her own. Time is certainly a factor to even get past the barriers that foster children has placed because of abuse and neglect. Foster children's feelings for their birth mother will never change. The image of their birth mother is a woman who is seen in their eyes as perfect. No one, not even the foster mother, will be able to change that.

The foster mother must make a decision how to create an environment where the child can learn to respect, love and honor their temporary, or maybe permanent, family. If children have a "Godly Mother" like I do, then we can bring up our children in the ways of God, so that when they grow older we have the assurance that some day they will live for God. After all, **Proverbs 22:6** says "Train up a child in the ways he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

Mother happens to be where that 'family' began. We all need our mother's love and she in return needs to feel loved back. Love is what connects children to either their birth or foster mothers. Not until we become adults, do we really

begin to appreciate who mother really is. She has nurtured each of us through our childhood, put up with our sassy ways and times of being lazy during our teenage years, and cried seeing us becoming an adult. But your mother is always there to encourage you when you make a mistake, although sometimes it's hard not to show disappointment.

My mother means this to me. I hope that yours means the same:

M – Messenger, relaying God's Word
O – Outpouring of genuine Love
T – Trusts in God
H – Heart set on things above
E – Earthly saint
R – Rescuer of the Wayward

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CENTRAL CHILDREN'S HOME NEWS

By Reverend Ricky L. Banks

The story is told of a little lady in her late eighties who was a member of a certain church. She was quite deaf, and usually listened



Rev. Ricky Banks

to the church service over the radio at home. In that way she could adjust the volume to her hearing. But once a month she came to church. One morning on her way out she paused and said, "I cannot hear one thing here at the church, however, I want to come at least once a month in order that people may know that I am still interested and that my heart is here."

She carried out in her own life the Master's command to "Let your light shine before men that they may see your good works, and glorify your father which is in heav-

en."

Our relation to the church is not so much what we get out of it, as what we are able to do for others in the name of Christ. The Christian

Verse For The Month:

I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord.

Psalms 122:1.

disciple does not ask to receive but to give. Many people who are church members never attend church worship. Some of those who do attend may go for selfish reasons. However, it is in the spirit of Christian worship that we share with others in the glory of God. Your presence may even open the way to Christ for some other person. May we truly say because of the house of the Lord our God I will seek thy good.

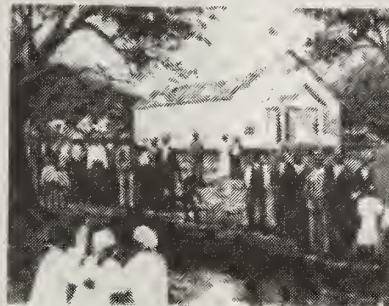
The Central Children's Home is on the move and we are still in need of your prayers and support.

On June 21, 2003 at 10:00 AM the city of Oxford will be having Central Children's Home Day. We would love to have you to share with us. Pastors and Churches, we thank you for your support, and please don't forget our children. We are still working toward the

transitional classroom and accreditation for the Home. We are in need of a pickup truck and two mini-vans. If we can be of assistance to you, please call 252-335-5003 or 252-339-3438. GOD BLESS.

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8th Annual

Central Children's Home Day

★ June 21, 2003 ★

Steppers • Face Painting • Arts & Crafts • Gospel Singing
Horses • Fashion Show • Floats

Parade: 10:00 a.m. - Downtown Oxford

Campus Activities: 12:00 Noon - Central Children's Home

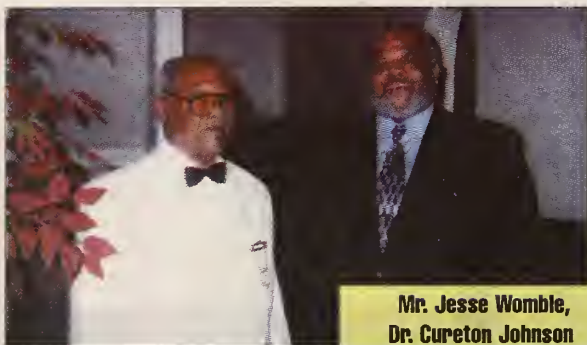
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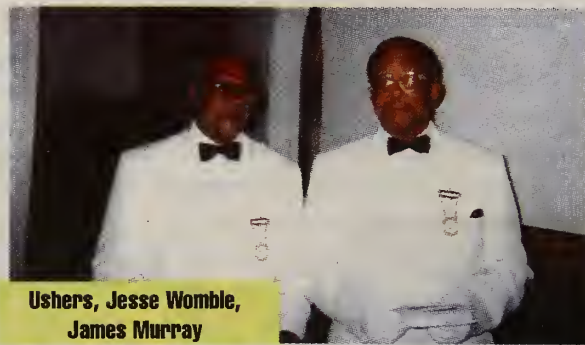
Central Children's Home • 211 W. Antioch Drive • Oxford, NC 27565 • (919) 693-7617

Hillside High School Marching Band & Others

MUSIC CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS



Mr. Jesse Womble,
Dr. Cureton Johnson



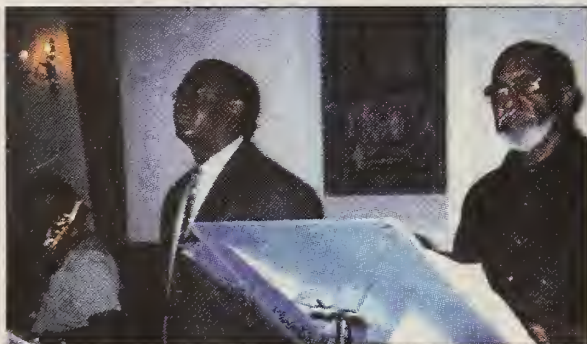
Ushers, Jesse Womble,
James Murray



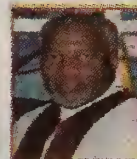
Minister David Eggleston,
Music Conference Coordinator



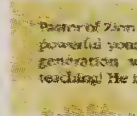
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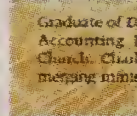
Dr. Clifford A. Jones, Sr.
Senior Pastor of Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, Charlotte, NC. Dr. Jones is an internationally known preacher, teacher, administrator, and lecturer who challenges and enlightens with his unique gifts and profound wisdom!



Rev. Michael A. Walcott
Pastor of Zion Temple United Church of Christ Durham, NC. This powerful young preacher is known for his ability to reach this generation with an energetic approach to preaching and teaching! He is also a campus minister at Duke University.



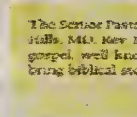
Rev. Cheryl D. Moore
Minister of Singles and Youth at Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, Charlotte, NC. Rev. Moore is especially marked for her flexibility and innovative gifts for ministry. She has successfully developed effective contemporary ministries for young people in traditional church settings!



Rev. John Spann
Graduate of Duke Divinity School, Rev. Spann is the head of the Accounting Department at Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, Charlotte, NC. He possesses the extraordinary gift of merging ministry, business, and finances!



Dr. Michael Eric Dyson
Professor, Preacher and Author, Dr. Dyson is known for his electrifying speeches and writings addressing the hip-hop culture and urban youth! He is in great demand throughout the country and his television appearances include BET and CNN!



Rev. Anthony Moore
The Senior Pastor of the Carolina Missionary Baptist Church, Temple Hills, MD. Rev. Moore is a prolific orator, teacher, and preacher of the gospel, well known for his exciting presentations and his ability to bring biblical stories to life.



Vanessa Bell Armstrong



Maurette Brown-Clark



Sister Constance

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Friendship Missionary Baptist Church
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REGISTRATION & HOTEL INFORMATION

Registration amount: \$100.00 per person.
All checks/money orders should be paid directly to The PreMo Corporation. If paying by credit card (Visa, American Express, Discover, Master Card) Please call Friendship Missionary Baptist Church (704-392-0392 x124).

Sheraton Airport Plaza
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**Do not forget to ask for FMBC/PreMo Symposium Rate

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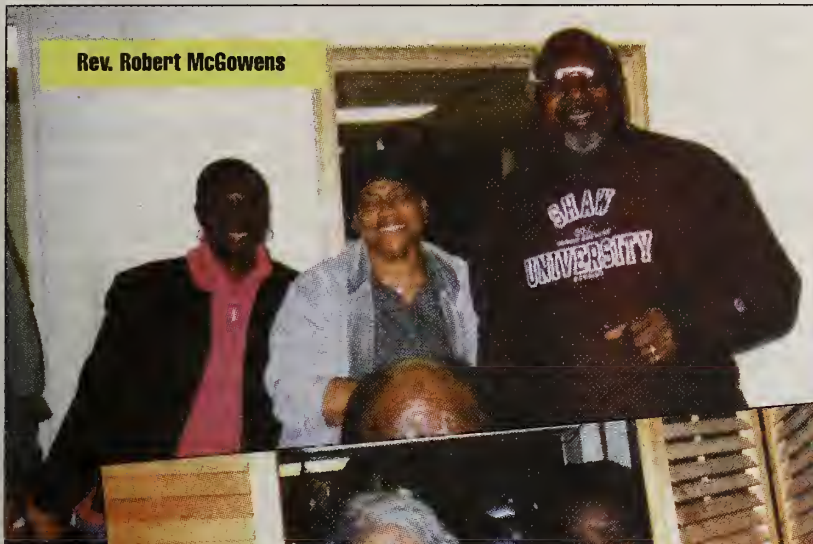
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EVANGELISM CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

Evangelism Outreach Program

Galilee Missionary Baptist Church, Winston Salem, NC • Rev. Robert E. Lee McGowens, Sr., Pastor



Shaw University's Graduation 2002-2003 Figures Surpass 400

Shaw University bid farewell to 290 students as they received their Bachelor's, Master's, and Associate degrees during the University's Spring Commencement Ceremony Saturday, May 10th at the Raleigh Conference and Convention Center. This brings the total number of Shaw University graduates for the 2002-2003 Academic Year to 417.

The Spring Commencement Ceremony also marked the first Commencement over which President Clarence G. Newsome presided. Dr. Newsome was named Shaw University's 13th President on February 13th. Other highlights on Commencement Day included the official designation of Dr. Talbert O. Shaw, former President of Shaw University, as President Emeritus. Dr. Shaw was named President of Shaw University in 1987 and served the University for more than 15 years.

Shaw University also awarded three Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters Degrees at Saturday's commencement.

The honorees were:

Stanley Alexander, CPM

Born and raised in Jamaica, West Indies, Stanley Alexander currently resides in Longwood, Florida. He is a pioneer in the field of property management, having started his career in real estate in the early 1950s. Mr. Alexander is a licensed real estate broker, a licensed insurance broker, a certified property manager, a land developer, and a mortgage banker. He operated a real estate business for a number of years in his own office building in Brooklyn, NY, and was a pioneer in

assisting African American families with obtaining Federal Housing Administration (FHA) financing to purchase homes. In addition, he broke new ground for other African Americans to become qualified appraisers for U. S. Government guaranteed loans. In the 1960s, he broke the color barrier in real estate by becoming the first African American member of the prestigious real estate organization, the National Association of Realtors, due to his demonstrated leadership in the housing field.

Wilbert Bryant

Wilbert Bryant was sworn in as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Higher Education Programs for the United States Department of Education on December 5, 2001. As Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bryant is responsible for assisting with the general direction and supervision of all matters relating to post-secondary programs and services. Prior to joining the Department of Education, Bryant served as Virginia's Secretary of Education during the administration of James S. Gilmore III. In this capacity, Bryant provided advice on the needs of 37 educational and cultural agencies, and managed the policy development and budget materials for K-12 public schools, vocational and technical training centers, 15 colleges and universities, the state community college system, 5 public museums, the Library of Virginia, and 2 teaching hospitals. From 1994 - 1998, he served as deputy secretary

of education under the leadership of former Governor George Allen. In this position, he assisted with numerous education initiatives including

Virginia's Standards of Learning, which established rigorous academic standards for K-

12 students in English, Mathematics, Science and History. A Vietnam Veteran and highly decorated officer, Bryant retired from the United States Army in 1990 with the full rank of Colonel after serving nearly 28 years. A native of Goulds, Florida, Bryant received his Bachelor of Science degree from Florida A & M University and a Master of Education from Howard University.

Bob Etheridge

U. S. Congressman Bob Etheridge was elected to Congress in 1996. Congressman Etheridge currently serves on the House Agriculture Committee and the House Select Committee on Homeland Security. He is a native of North Carolina's Second Congressional district where he has lived virtually his

entire life. Congressman Etheridge was born in Sampson County, grew up in Johnston County, and has made his home in Harnett County for more than 37 years, where he has been a small businessman, part-time tobacco farmer, and full-time public servant.

Congressman Etheridge has earned a solid reputation for his leadership on education issues, first as a Harnett County commissioner and later in North Carolina's General Assembly. He served eight years as North Carolina's elected State Superintendent of Schools. Congressman Etheridge currently serves on the House Agriculture Committee and the Select Committee on Homeland Security and is the Co-Chairman of the Democratic Caucus' Education Task Force.

Shaw University, founded in 1865, is the oldest historically Black institution of higher learning in the South. The University is under the leadership of Dr. Clarence G. Newsome. President Newsome's leadership pursues the theme: "Strides to Excellence: Only the Best!"

*"Strides to Excellence:
Only the Best!"*

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Rosalind Polston

Project Manager, Domestic Abuse and Violence Prevention
Shaw University Divinity School

919-667-9637

email: rpolston@shawu.edu

SAVE THE DATE!

The Shaw University Divinity School has scheduled the following upcoming Conferences:

- **Non-Traditional Theological Conference. July 10-12, 2003**
- **Church Leadership Conference July 26, 2003**
- **Women's Conference August 9, 2003**

★All Pastors, Ministers, Deacons, Trustees and Laity would benefit from these conferences.

NC Mutual Life Insurance Company Selects New President and CEO

Submitted by Carol J. Smith, Managing Editor

The Board of Directors of North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company has selected



Carol J. Smith

James H. Speed, Jr. of Raleigh as the company's new President and Chief Executive Officer. Speed, a CPA and former Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer of Hardee's Food Systems, Inc.,

will replace Bert Collins. Collins, 68, has served as President since 1990 and last Fall indicated to the Board of Directors his desire to retire.

The transition will occur December 31, 2003. In the meantime, Speed will serve as President and Chief Executive Officer-Elect. Collins will become Chairman of the Board of North Carolina Mutual upon his retirement.

The Board started a search process earlier this year and looked at a number of candidates both inside and outside the corporation. "We have a new strategic plan for the company, and we wanted to make sure the new president was someone who had the professional skills and the energy required to take that plan, implement it, and take the corporation to the next level," said Nathan Garrett of Durham, Board Chair. "Members of the Board felt very strongly James Speed had the full complement of attributes they were looking for, and I am delighted that he was the consensus choice for President and CEO."

Garrett will become Chairman Emeritus, and Thelma Smith, who currently serves on the North Carolina Mutual Board, will become Vice Chair of the Board.

Speed, 49, grew up in Oxford, North Carolina, and received the BS degree from North Carolina Central University in 1975 and the MBA degree from Atlanta University in 1979. A Certified Public Accountant, he joined the international accounting firm of Deloitte & Touche in 1979. During his 12 years there, one of his clients was North Carolina Mutual and he served them for 10 years.

In 1991, Speed joined Hardee's as Vice President and Controller and was promoted to Senior Vice President in 1995. In 1997, he became a member of the company's five-person senior management team, serving as Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer until March 2000. North

Carolina Mutual then retained Speed as a consultant, and he was a part of the team that developed the company's new strategic plan that was completed in February 2002. Then he joined the company as Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer.

"During the strategic planning process, I really got excited about the potential of the company," Speed said. "I realized that the vision and capacity were there to become one of the top 100 life insurance companies in America. I know this is a very ambitious goal, but I believe it's a goal that can be realized. The opportunities at North Carolina Mutual are unlimited," he said.

Collins complimented the Board for its thoroughness in selecting his suc-

cessor. "It has been a humbling experience to serve as the eighth President and Chief Executive Officer of North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company, the oldest and largest Black-owned life insurance company in the nation," Collins said. "I have had the unique opportunity of working with some of the best and brightest minds in the insurance industry, and I have thoroughly enjoyed being a part of the growth of this great company."

Speed is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, Institute of Management Accountants, and the National Association of Black Accountants. He serves on the Board of Directors of RBC Centura Funds, Inc., The Nottingham Investment Trust II, North Carolina State Board of

Communities in Schools, Communities in Schools of the Rocky Mount Region, Central Children's Home of North Carolina and the North Carolina Central University School of Business. Governor Jim Hunt appointed Speed to the Commission on Business Laws and the Economy and the North Carolina Public Schools Administrator Task Force.

North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company was founded in 1898 and today is the nation's oldest and largest African-American life insurance company. Originally operating only in North Carolina, it is now licensed to operate in 22 states and the District of Columbia. It has 358,491 policyholders. know that Heaven is still in business.

GBSC Members Awarded Scholarships

Submitted by Carol J. Smith, Managing Editor

In 1992, Wake Forest University made available three William Louis Poteat Scholarships to students who are members of the General Baptist State Convention. In July 1992, a committee comprised of members of GBSCNC churches, some of whom are Wake Forest University alumni, held its inaugural meeting. The committee's purpose is to encourage students who are members of the Convention, and who appear to meet the qualifications for a William Louise Poteat Scholarship, to apply for the scholarship, and to interview the applicants. Dr. Archie D. Logan, Jr., '72, served as the committee's first chairman. Presently serving as chairman is the Reverend Reuban J. Gilliam.

Two GBSCNC Poteat Scholarships, valued at \$5,000 each, were awarded in February 1993, one of which was accepted by Ms. Lakisha Blackstone of Aulander. Ms. Blackstone graduated from the University in May 1997.

Three GBSCNC Poteat Scholarships, valued at \$5,500 each, were awarded in February 1994. Accepting the scholarships were Mr. Thurman L. Chestnutt, Jr., of Whiteville, and Ms. Eustachia Charis Gibbs, of Wadesboro. Mr. Chestnutt and Ms. Gibbs graduated from Wake Forest University on May 18, 1998, Ms. Gibbs, Cum Laude.

Three GBSCNC Poteat Scholarships, valued at \$7,500 each, were awarded in February 1996, and were accepted by Ms. Ashanti A. Smith of Goldsboro, Ms. Lebbonee DeMia Price of Pittsboro, and Ms. Tara Jannette Brayboy of Kernersville. They graduated from the University May 15, 2000. Ms. Price graduated as a Poteat Scholar

on May 15, 2000 with Honors in Economics.

Three GBSCNC Poteat Scholarships, valued at \$8,000 each, were awarded in February 1997, and were accepted by Mr. Stacy Whichard Smallwood of Gatesville, Ms. Shenika Ni'Cole Watlington of Reidsville, and Ms. Kala Conelia Blackwell of Reidsville. They graduated Poteat Scholars on May 21, 2001, Smallwood and Watlington, Cum Laude.

Two GBSCNC Poteat Scholarships, valued at \$8,000 each, were awarded in February 1998 and were accepted by Ms. Candice Clitondra Mathis of Warsaw and Ms. Ashley Nicole Hardy of Shallotte. They graduated as Poteat Scholars on May 20, 2002, Hardy with Honors in Health and Exercise Science.

Three GBSCNC Poteat Scholarships, valued at \$10,700 each, were awarded in February 1999; two were accepted. Accepting were Ms. Tangela Annette Wallace of Winston-Salem, Ms. Ketarah Chereese Robinson of Williamston, and

Ms. Enrica Jillian Hairston of Belmont.

Three GBSCNC Poteat Scholarships, valued at \$11,200 each, were awarded in February 2000; three were accepted. Accepting were Ms. Geneva Shivon Long of Monroe, Mr. William C. Scales, Jr. of Winston-Salem, and Mr. Solomon Newton Cole IV of Graham.

Four GBSCNC Poteat Scholarships, valued at \$11,200 each, were awarded in February 2001; three were accepted. Accepting were Ms. Ierisha Trasina Davis of Durham, Mr. Edward Lindell Perry, Jr. of Wake Forest, and Ms. Jennifer Leigh Holland of Huntersville.

Three GBSCNC Poteat Scholarships, valued at \$11,200 each, were awarded in February 2002. One scholarship was accepted. Mr. Terrell Nathaniel Nicholson of Nashville accepted the scholarship.

One GBSCNC Poteat Scholarship, valued at \$11,200, was awarded in February 2003 and was accepted by Christopher L. Long of Burlington.

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Take a Healthy Dose of Skepticism to Ward Off Quack Cures

By Attorney General Roy Cooper

Americans spend billions of dollars each year on health related products and services, so it's no wonder that health care complaints are one of the most common types of complaints my office receives. While many of these concern problems with medical bills or health insurance, consumers also call to tell us that they've been the victim of a health related scam.

These scammers often target people who are elderly, overweight or suffering from a disease. Like the snake oil salesmen of old, they prey upon people's vulnerability. Many even use the latest medical news to help them hawk their products – whether it is the potential threat of bio-terrorism or the recent SARS epidemic. Keep reading to learn how you can evaluate products that promise to be a quick cure for whatever ails you.

Miracle Cures

You receive a brochure, an email, or a telemarketing call promising you that a special dietary supplement or herbal potion is the ticket to better health. Despite the glowing testimonials from people who claim that their

lives have been changed thanks to this miracle product, many supplements can't back up their promises with proof. It's important to know that dietary supplements do not have to be tested or approved by any government agency in order to be marketed and sold to you.

Some of these supplements may be merely a waste of money while others could have dangerous side effects or interfere with other medications you may be taking. Also, just because a product is "natural" doesn't necessarily mean it's safe. A natural product can cause allergic reactions or even be toxic in large doses. Consumers need to be especially wary of products marketed as cures for cancer, HIV, or other life-threatening illnesses.

Before you buy any product or potion that promises to cure your medical condition or ward off disease:

- Consult your physician or health care professional.
- Research the company by calling my Consumer Protection Division at (919) 716-6000.
- Check with the Food and Drug Administration at www.fda.gov to learn more about the ingredients in supplements and any possible risks or

side effects.

- If you decide to buy, pay by credit card to improve your chances of being able to get a refund if you aren't satisfied with the product and the seller goes out of business.

- Keep in mind that North Carolina's three-day right to cancel law gives you three days to return the product if you bought it someplace other than the seller's usual place of business. However, it does not apply to purchases made on line or over the phone.

Miracle Diets

Another source of health related consumer complaints are miracle diet programs or products that don't quite live up to their billing. You've probably heard the ads on the radio, seen the signs while you're sitting at a stoplight or gotten the messages by email – claims for fat absorbers, fat burners and other diet products and programs that promise fast, effortless weight loss. But when it comes to losing weight, gimmicks won't work and can even be unhealthy in some cases.

Don't fall for these empty promises:

- "Lose weight while you sleep!" Like it or not, the only proven way to lose weight is to reduce how many calories you consume through your diet and increase how many calories you burn through physical activity.
- "I Lost 84 Pounds in Six Weeks – you can, too!" Don't be misled by someone else's alleged success on a

particular diet. Better to consult a health professional to find a diet that will work for you.

- "Lose 30 pounds in 30 days!" As a rule, the faster you lose weight, the more likely you are to gain it back, and shedding pounds too quickly can damage your health. Unless your doctor advises it, don't look for programs that promise quick weight loss.

- "Lose Weight and Keep It Off For Good!" For most people, losing weight and keeping it off permanently requires a real change in diet and exercise habits. Be suspicious about products that promise to deliver long-term weight loss.

- "Lose All the Weight You Can For Just \$39.99!" Beware of hidden costs. Before you sign up for any weight loss program, get all of the costs in writing.

- "Money Back Guarantee" – Unfortunately, the company's refund guarantee may be just as empty as their weight loss promises. In many cases, the company has already gone out of business before your trial period is up and you are ready to ask for your money back. To improve the odds of getting a refund, pay by credit card.

Attorney General Roy Cooper and his staff want to help North Carolina consumers make healthy decisions. We are here to be of service when you need us, but through education efforts like these columns we hope to help consumers avoid problems from the start.

Tar River Missionary Baptist Association



L-R, Mrs. Dean, Dr. Logan, Dr. Woodhouse

By President Minnie L. Deans

Tar River Missionary Baptist Association Woman's Auxiliary held its annual Meal for Mission Banquet Saturday, May 3, 2003 at the Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church in Rocky Mount, NC. The Reverend Milton Batts, is pastor. Dr. Archie D. Logan was the guest speaker. Mrs. Minnie L. Deans serves as president of the Woman's

Auxiliary.

During the banquet, president Deans presented a check for \$500.00 to the General Baptist State Convention from the Woman's Auxiliary. Moderator J. B. Woodhouse presented a check for \$1,000.00 from the association. Dr. Logan delivered a soul-stirring message entitled "A Meal for the Mission".

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Dr. Robert E. Lee McGowens, Evangelism Chairman

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2005	Elizabeth City	St. Stephens
2006	Wilmington	Shiloh
ANNUAL		
2003	Charlotte	Ebenezer
2004	Salisbury	Mt. Zion
2005	Asheville	Mt. Zion
2006	Raleigh	Martin Street
TRINITY SESSION		
2003	Charlotte	Second Calvary
2004	Goldsboro	Bear Creek Association
2005	Fayetteville	Union Association
2006	Reidsville	Zion
EVANGELISM CONFERENCE		
2004	Greensboro	East White Oak
2005	Charlotte	Chappell Memorial
2006	Winston-Salem	Galilee Missionary

J.J. JOHNSON CAMP

J.J. JOHNSON BAPTIST ASSEMBLY INFORMATION

The Site:

The J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly is a tract of land comprising seventy-five (75) or more acres, much of which is covered with a mixture of North Carolina Pine, red and white oak trees. The location of the Baptist Assembly is on more than 75 rolling acres in Laurel Hill, North Carolina in Scotland County.

In 1967, approximately two-thirds of the acreage was donated by Dr. and Mrs. Joy J. Johnson and their daughter, Deborah (Mrs. Alexander Killiens). Additional acres were purchased by the Woman's Convention and General Baptist State Convention.

Our Purpose:

The purpose of the J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly in Laurel Hill is to provide a setting that is Christian in its atmosphere and is conducive to learning, worship, and meeting the needs of all individuals whom we serve. It seeks to provide opportunities for everyone to learn habits of good citizenship, and it provides at the same time opportunities to reach a maximum potential for Christian fellowship and fun experiences through democratic ideals and living.

The facility exists for the exclusive use by religious groups and/or organizations with similar aims regardless of ethnic origin.

Meeting Facilities:

At the J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly, there are various meeting facilities available. Listed below are the seating capacity (theater style) and lodging:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ♦ Rowan Association Chapel | Seating Capacity: 300-400 |
| ♦ Horne Lodge | Seating Capacity: 20-25, Sleeps 12 |
| ♦ Alston Lodge | Seating Capacity: 100, Sleeps 64 |
| ♦ Lumber Bridge Association Lodge | Seating Capacity: 100, Sleeps 64 |
| ♦ Brown Assembly Dining Hall | Seating Capacity: 200 |
- (Cafeteria Style)

Individuals should bring their own linen, blankets, soap and other toiletries for the lodging facilities.

"And gathered them out of the lands, from the east, and from the west, from the north, and from the south." Psalm 107:3

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Current Annual Events

During the course of the year, the Conventional Family sponsors different ministries at the J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly. Among these are the following:

- ♦ Vacation Bible School (GBSC) – March
- ♦ Ministers' Wives Retreat (WBSC) – May
- ♦ Laymen's League Mini-Skills Retreat (GBSC) – May
- ♦ Leadership Training Conference (GBSC) – June
- ♦ Youth Bible Camp (WBSC) – June
- ♦ Laymen's League Boy's Summer Retreat (GBSC) – July
- ♦ Laymen's League Scouting Jamboree (GBSC) – August
- ♦ Laymen's League Men's Retreat (GBSC) – September
- ♦ North Carolina Branch of the 9th and 10th Calvary (Buffalo Soldiers) – October
- ♦ Usher's Retreat/Workshop (GBSC) – November
- ♦ Laymen's League Planning Session – December

The campus is available year round for meetings, weddings, banquets, family reunions, and other activities. Contact Rev. Eric Harris for the policies and procedures regarding each type of event.

Send Applications & Funds to:
General Baptist State Convention
J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly
603 S. Wilmington Street
Raleigh, NC 27601

(Make checks payable to J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly)

Sources: "1974" Brochure and the J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly Guide And Handbook (1985).

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6. Good oral and written communication skills

7. Good role model of moral and ethical conduct

8. Possess broad knowledge and willingness to follow Baptist Doctrine

9. Plan, organize and implement programs that encourage participation of youth and young adults that promote church growth and progress

10. College experience or degree in Christian studies from an accredited seminary or theological school preferred

Please include the following in your resume:

1. Name, address, day and evening phone numbers
2. Marital status
3. References (3): (1) Minister, (1) Professional, (1) Personal

Interested applicants should provide a resume to:

Deacon Wilbert Bowe,
Pulpit Selection Committee,
Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church,
P.O. Box 2901,
Bertha Wilson Road,
Providence, NC 27315.

Application deadline: June 30, 2003.

CHAPEL HILL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH - Autryville, NC:

seeks a pastor to serve as its spiritual leader, teacher, counselor, and administrator. Some requirements are as followed:

- Must be born-again as evidenced by character and dedication
- Licensed, ordained Baptist minister
- Ability to preach/teach and have administrative skills
- Five years of pastoral experience preferred
- Some theological courses completed, and continuing
- Knowledge of Baptist doctrine, policies and procedures
- A resume, letter of interest, including a vision statement of their ministry
- Legible copies of ministerial license

and ordination certification

- References: Include name, address and phone number, (1) Family reference, (1) Business reference, (1) Professional reference and (2) references from pastors familiar with your character and ministry

• Other criteria will be discussed during interviews

Please mail any applications/resumes and/or related material to:

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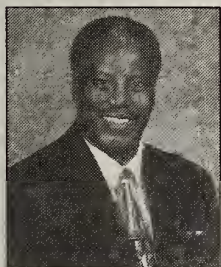
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POPLAR SPRINGS MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH of Roaring River, North Carolina is seeking a Pastor. We are accepting resumes from interested applicants. Qualifications:

- Must be a Born-Again Christian
- Licensed Ordained Minister, with certifications to prove it.
- Preferred Pastoral Experience
- Must be able to preach and teach, as well as communicate with all ages
- Strong leadership qualities.

Send resumes to:

Deacon Board
2265 White Plains Rd.
Roaring River, North Carolina
28669

MILL NECK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH – Como, NC: currently accepting applications for a Pastor with strong Missionary Baptist roots. We are affiliated with the West Roanoke Missionary Baptist Association and the General Baptist State convention. *Interested applicants should provide a resume to:* Carolyn M. Farrow, Secretary, Pastor Search Committee, Mill Neck Missionary Baptist Church, P.O. Box 68, Mill Neck Rd., Como, NC 27818.

BUNCOMBE BAPTIST CHURCH – Lexington, NC: accepting resumes from interested licensed ordained Missionary Baptist ministers.

Qualifications:

- Born again Christian
- Concerned with spiritual and intellectual growth of the church
- Ability to preach and teach God's Word
- Must be willing to teach and follow the Baptist Doctrines, policies and practices
- Ability to work with all age groups in

the church

- Ability to carry out administrative, leadership and counseling duties
- Work cooperatively with church officials
- Family and community oriented
- Teach Bible Study and attend Sunday School and prayer meetings
- Theological and/or Seminary training preferred
- Good communications skills
- Must be a good role model of moral and ethical conduct

Please send resumes and inquiries to: Buncombe Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1533, Lexington, NC 27293.

GUILDFIELD M.B. CHURCH – New Bern, NC: currently accepting applications for a Pastor. Guildfield M.B. Church is an established church with a rich heritage in Eastern North Carolina. It is a growing congregation with active ministries focusing on the youth, senior citizens, the musical department, and Christian Education activities. Regular worship services are held every Sunday morning at 11:00 a.m. The church has membership in the Old Eastern Missionary Baptist Association.

PASTORAL DUTIES

- Serve as Senior Pastor and preach the Gospel
- Provide insight for spiritual growth of the church and outreach efforts
- Plan and implement Christian education opportunities for the membership
- Serve as an ex-officio member of all church auxiliaries
- Provide leadership to associate ministers affiliated with the church

QUALIFICATIONS

- Must be saved and have a personal

relationship with the Lord

- Must be ordained to preach and be able to serve as an administrator of a local congregation
 - Must possess interpersonal skills that facilitate interaction with church members and various community resources
 - Must possess leadership abilities
 - Must have personal stamina and enthusiasm to encourage the spiritual growth of the congregation
 - Must have at least two years of experience in church leadership in some capacity and some Bible school training
- Resumes will be accepted until the position is filled. To apply, send resume to the attention of Mrs. Vesta Mullins, Chairperson of the Pastoral Search Committee, at the church's address. For more information call Rev. Carolyn Squires, Committee Co-Chairperson at 252-638-4726.

836 Green Street

P.O. Box 12881

New Bern, NC 28560
252-633-2388

Oakey Grove Missionary Baptist Church – Clayton, NC: currently accepting applications for a Pastor with strong Missionary Baptist roots. We are affiliated with the Johnston District Missionary Baptist Association and the General Baptist State Convention. Interested applicants should provide the following:

1. A resume
2. Personal references

Send information to:

Oakey Grove Baptist Church
Pulpit Search Committee
Deacon Loomis Hodges, Chairperson
PO Box 2435
Smithfield, NC 27577

Richard H. Moore
State Treasurer

Dr. Archie Logan, Jr.
Executive Secretary-Treasurer
General Baptist State Convention

Dear Pastor,

The General Baptist State Convention joins Richard H. Moore, State Treasurer, in encouraging your Association and church to identify your unclaimed property. As your State Treasurer and Executive Secretary Treasurer of the General Baptist State Convention, the two of us serve important roles in North Carolina. It is for this reason we want to make you aware of a program that may benefit both your church and its members.

The North Carolina Department of State Treasurer is responsible for administering the "Escheat and Unclaimed Property Program". The purpose of this program is simple; when a company or financial institution is holding money that belongs to a North Carolina resident and that individual cannot be located, the company is required by law to turn the money over to the Department of State Treasurer, where it is held until the rightful owner claims it. This "unclaimed cash" is often the result of forgotten utility deposits, bank accounts, stocks that were purchased, and checks that have not been cashed. Currently, the North Carolina Department of State Treasurer is holding over \$350 million in unclaimed cash that belongs to 1.4 million people and organizations.

It is important that as much of this money as possible gets returned to the rightful owners. In order to do that, we need your help. We hope that you can assist us in getting the word out about this program by letting your church members know it is there and making them aware of how they can check to see if they may be owed money.

The easiest way to find out if your name is on the Unclaimed Property list is to log onto the North Carolina Department of State Treasurer website at www.treasurer.state.nc.us. You then click on the "Unclaimed Property Program" link to get to a page where you can type in your name. We suggest not only checking your name with the proper spelling, but try variations on the spelling of your name, as well. Sometimes the reason money does not get to an individual is because the company sending it has the wrong address or incorrect spelling of the person's name.

It is also important to know that claiming your money through the Department of State Treasurer is completely free. You should be aware that there are services that DO charge a fee to locate any unclaimed funds that may be owed to you. It is not necessary to use these services or to pay a fee to have your money returned. You can claim your money directly from the Department of State Treasurer at no cost.

We believe sharing information regarding the "Unclaimed Property Program" with your church members is a valuable service. Not only will this information help your members to claim any money that they may be owed, but it will also be helpful to your communities as the word travels to relatives, friends and neighbors of your members. We also suggest you check the name of your church to see if money is owed to it. There are thousands of businesses and organizations that have unclaimed cash, and your church may be one of them.

We appreciate your assistance in helping us to make the citizens of North Carolina aware of this program, and look forward to working with you to return as much money as possible to your church members. The General Baptist Foundation is also available to assist you in locating your money at no cost; simply call the Foundation toll free at 1-866-858-7847 or log on to the General Baptist State Convention's website at www.GBSC.org, then click on the [N.C. Department of State Treasurer](http://www.nc.gov) link to access the "Unclaimed Property Program".

Sincerely,

Richard H. Moore
State Treasurer

Dr. Archie Logan, Jr.
Executive Secretary-Treasurer
General Baptist State Convention

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CLASSIFIEDS

MOUNT CARMEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH – Elizabeth City, NC: currently accepting applications for a Pastor. The church is located in Hertford County. Interested applicants should provide the following:

1. A Resume
2. A copy of religious credentials: License/Ordination
3. Two personal references (no family references)

Send information to:

Mount Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church
Pulpit Committee
P.O. Box 1421
Elizabeth City, 27906-1421

UNION GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH, Warrenton, NC: currently accepting applications for a Pastor. Interested applicants should provide the following:

A Resume

Send information to:

Brother Alonza Jones, Board Chairman
Pastor Search Committee
Route 2, Box 128
Norlina, NC 27563

FIRST MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH Thomasville, NC: currently accepting applications for a Pastor with

strong Missionary Baptist roots. We are affiliated with the Johnston District Missionary Baptist Association and the General Baptist State Convention, interested applicants should provide a resume. Send information to:
Tanya M. Autry, Chairperson
Pastor Search Committee
First Missionary Baptist Church
103 Church Street
Thomasville, NC 27360

EBENEZER BAPTIST CHURCH – Neburgh, NY: currently accepting applications for Senior Pastor with strong Baptist roots. The Committee will provide each candidate with an application packet.

Send request to:

Ebenezer Baptist Church
ATTN: Deacon Milton
Buxton/Confidential
PO Box 248
Newburgh, NY 12551-0248

SHADY GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH – East Spencer, NC: currently accepting applications for a Pastor with strong Missionary Baptist roots. Interested applicants should provide the following:

1. A resume
2. at least four references: (2) business

(2) personal

3. A copy of religious credentials:

License/Ordination

Send information to:

Shady Grove Baptist Church
ATTN: Clarence A. Jones, Chairperson
PO Box 447
East Spencer, NC 28039

EASTERN STAR MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH – Tarboro, NC: seeking a pastor.

- He must be experienced
- Well seasoned
- He must live by the word of God
- Willing to teach Sunday school and bible study class
- Must be between the age of 25-55

Please submit resume to:

Pulpit Committee
Eastern Star Missionary Baptist Church
Post Office Box 1677
Tarboro, North Carolina 27886

FOSTER MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH – Rocky Mount, NC: The Pulpit Search Committee of the Foster Memorial Missionary Baptist Church located in Rocky Mount, North Carolina, is accepting resume for the position of pastor. Applicants must possess the following qualifications:

- He must possess good moral and ethical conduct, living by Timothy 3:1-1, Titus 1:7-9 and abstain from study activities and inclinations as those cited in

Romans 1:26-27.

- He must have a minimum of three (3) years experience as pastor with demonstrated ability in counseling and supervising all work for the church.

- He must live in the proximity of the church.

- He must be born again, filled with the Holy Spirit and called by God to preach God's word.

- He must possess a strong knowledge of the Missionary Baptist Doctrine, Church Policies, and Practices, and be willing to abide by them.

- He must have the skills required to work with all age groups, with special emphasis on the youth.

- He must have the skills required for planning and implementing a vision for spiritual, physical and financial growth of the church. — He must be community oriented, and have strong family values.

- He must have a minimum of a high school diploma preferably a degree or courses in seminary training from an accredited college or university.

- He must be willing to attend Sunday School, Prayer Meetings, and teach Bible Study.

Please send resume to:

Foster Memorial Missionary Baptist Church, 1911 South Church Street
Post Office Box 6317
Rocky Mount, NC 2802-6317
C/O The Pulpit Committee
Trustee Hiawatha Knight

PULPIT VACANCY NEW LIGHT MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH HALLSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA

NEW LIGHT MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH IS NOW ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR A PASTOR. OUR WORSHIP SERVICES ARE EACH SUNDAY OF THE MONTH.

QUALIFICATIONS:

Must be a licensed ordained Missionary Baptist Minister.

- Full of Holy Ghost. Led by the Spirit of God in all matters.
- Full of wisdom, knowledge and understand the office of Pastor and performs it according to the scriptures and the needs of the church.
- Must be Association minded.
- Prefer having experience as a Pastor.
- The husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behavior.
- One that rules his own house, having a good report.
- Knows the doctrine of a Missionary Baptist Church
- Must attend meetings of different auxiliaries in the church to become familiar with the organizations, whenever possible.
- Must visit the sick and shut-in when possible.
- Must attempt to become involved with the various programs that the church participates in outside the home church calendar.

Send resumes and inquiries to:

Deacon Kenneth Bracey
1025 Red Bug Rd.
Hallsboro, North Carolina 28442
910-646-4467

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JACKSONVILLE, FLA. 32209
ATTN: SERMCO MINISTRIES, PASTOR D.A. LATTIMORE, JR.

904-354-7893 (CHURCH)

(FAX 904-354-5883)

CLASSIFIEDS

MOUNT CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH – Shelby, NC: currently accepting applications for a pastor with strong Missionary Baptist roots. The Church is affiliated with the Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Association, and the General Baptist State Convention of N.C. Interested applicants should provide the following:

Resume (including pastor experiences and educational qualifications)

A copy of religious credentials (license/ordination)

At least three personal references (no family)

Send information to:

Pastor Search Committee

Mount Calvary Baptist Church

P.O. Box 3181

Shelby, N.C. 28151-3181

HOPPERS CHAPEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH – Shelby, NC: now accepting resumes for the position of pastor. Potential candidates must be a born again Christian with strong Baptist roots. Hoppers Chapel is a member of the Ebenezer Baptist Association. All applicants must possess the following qualifications.

- Must be ordained and licensed
- Must have at least 1 yr. Pastoral experience

ence

- Must provide credentials of theological training
- Must be an effective teacher and counselor

- Must possess extensive knowledge of Baptist Doctrine
- Provide a mission statement for the church

- Live in close proximity to the church

The applicant must have the ability to plan and implement a growth strategy for both the spiritual and physical growth of the church.

Send all resumes to:

Hoppers Chapel Missionary Baptist Church

C/O Pulpit Committee

415 West Graham St.

Shelby, N.C. 28150

CHURCH STAFF

MUSICIANS:

BASIC REQUIREMENTS FOR SERVICE:

1. Born-again Christian, Spirit-filled, and divinely gifted in music ministry.
2. Willingness to spiritually align the music ministry with Pastoral vision.
3. Able to play the piano, keyboard and/or organ; able to read music and versatile.

4. Able to prepare choirs for Sunday morning worship services and other services.

5. Able to teach, as, well as direct choirs, with humility and love.

6. Able to rehearse with all choirs on schedule, and available for all Sunday services.

7. Able to accompany Pastor and choirs to other services as required (or ensure qualified substitute is available).

8. Able to select appropriate hymns and songs for worship.

ST. JAMES BAPTIST CHURCH – Greensboro, NC: Seeks Minister of Music with the following requirements:

- Born-again Christian, Spirit-filled, divinely gifted in music ministry
- Willingness to spiritually align the music ministry with Pastoral vision

- Ability to play piano, keyboard and/or organ, ability to read music and versatile
- Ability to prepare choirs for Sunday morning worship service and other services

- Ability to teach, as well as direct choirs, with humility and love
- Ability to rehearse with all choirs on schedule, and available for all Sunday services.

- Ability to accompany Pastor and choirs to other services as required (or assure qualified substitute is available)
- Ability to select appropriate hymns and songs for worship

- Has the God given ability to work with diverse groups and personalities.
- Preferably a degree in music

- Must be trustworthy, punctual, and fair in all of service to the congregation

Duties include: Be prepared for worship service and rehearsals; Be on time for worship service and rehearsals; Make sure instruments are in good condition at all times for performances; Have immediate access to "Baptist Hymnals" at all times; Be receptive to spontaneous input of members; Have cordial spirit in presenting rehearsal strategy; Be flexible in presentation; Be mindful of time; Adjust accordingly; Try to be available for engagements representing St. James outreach ministry; Implement new strategies and methods gradual, so growth can be achieved. All applicants send resume to:

St. James Baptist Church
Attention Rev. King
and Music Committee
536 West Florida Street
Greensboro, NC 27406

MINISTER OF MUSIC WANTED
SPRINGFIELD BAPTIST CHURCH – Stanley, NC:

• A Spirit-filled leader – skilled in the Word

• Child of God

• Faithful and committed to God's program

• The gift to play by ear with or without the accompaniment of other musicians

• Has the ability to read and teach music

• Plays versatile music – which includes hymns, spirituals, contemporary gospel and praise songs

• Available to accompany the pastor and choirs to other churches when and as needed

• Available for all rehearsals and Sunday Worship service

Please contact: Melissa Fanning – (H)

704-563-3230 or Pastor Theodore

Armstrong – Church 704-263-4426

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There are many phases in church planning and design which require a specialist in that field. When you start your next building program, I hope you will give me a call.

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| 03. God Said It, I Believe And That Settles It / It All Adds Up | 51. Muddy Putty In The Potter's Hands |
| 04. Burn Up Or Burn Out For God | 52. When Stress Controls You Jesus Consoles You |
| 05. Busted Britches From Straddling The Fence | 53. Black Men And Women, Young And Old, Changing A Generation |
| 06. Dangerous Minds | 54. I Am Black But I Am Somebody |
| 07. Don't Even Think About It | 55. Staying Afloat In A Sinking Boat |
| 08. Fired Up By The Holy Ghost | 56. He That Has A Friend Must Show Himself Friendly |
| 09. Are You Full Of The Stuff | 57. Victory Is Mine |
| 10. Let's Get On Board | 58. Occupy Till I Come |
| 11. God Picked Me To Be On His Side | 59. A Man On A Mission / The Borrowed Ax |
| 12. Grace On The Race | 60. Busy In God's Business |
| 13. Grow Up Or Blow Up | 61. That's Just Like Mama |
| 14. Hang In There | 62. He's Alive And I Am Glad About It |
| 15. He Lifted Me Up Out Of The Miry Clay | 63. What The World Needs Now Is Love Sweet Love |
| 16. Look Where The Lord Has Brought Me From | 64. I Moved From My Old House And My Old Friends |
| 17. If My People | 65. I Just Want To Know Why |
| 18. We Can Do It For A New Day Has Come | 66. What Do You Do When Life Is Not Fair |
| 19. I Know What Prayer Can Do | 67. Why Do Bad Things Happen To Good People |
| 20. Put Some Clothes On Child | 68. What Do You Do When Your Brook Runs Dry |
| 21. A Right Thing In A Wrong Time | 69. Diagnosis From Dr. Jesus, Go And See The Dr. |
| 22. The Man Who Had Everything But The Right Thing | 70. Who Is This Man |
| 23. Soap For The Soul | 71. What Would Jesus Do |
| 24. Stay On The Lord's Side | 72. If I Could But Touch The Hem Of His Garment |
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| 28. You Can't Touch This | 75. How To Stand In The Storms Of Life |
| 29. Warm In A Cold Situation | 76. Don't Quit |
| 30. That's The Way He Died But That's Not The End Of The Story | 77. Speak To Me Lord Jesus |
| 31. What You See Is What You Get | 78. Get Behind Me Satan |
| 32. What's Faith Got To Do With It | 79. Good Things Happen When Jesus Shows Up |
| 33. You Can't Make It Without God | 80. Where Are You? Adam |
| 34. I Just Want To Say... "Thank You Lord" | 81. Committed Because I Am Submitted |
| 35. A Heart Like Thine | 82. Are You A Disciplined Disciple |
| 36. Just A Closer Walk With Thee | 83. Answering God's Call |
| 37. Give Me A Clean Heart So I Can Serve You | 84. Too Blessed To Be Stressed |
| 38. What Ever The Problem God Has The Answer | 85. Thrilled By His Will |
| 39. Peace - In The Midst Of My Storm | 86. These Things Only Come By Prayer And Fasting |
| 40. I Am On The Right Road, Now! | 87. Just Like Daddy |
| 41. A Good Man In A Bad Situation | 88. I Got Two Wings And The World Can't Do Me No Harm |
| 42. Good Medicine For A Bad Ailment | 89. The Prayer Of Jabez |
| 43. Stand Up And Testify | 90. I Will Meet You On The Other Side |
| 44. Bad Boys! What You're Going To Do When He Comes For You | 91. Can't Come Right Now, I Am On Duty |
| 45. Angels Just Keep Watching Over Me | 92. What A Mighty God We Serve |
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4. Order sermons by e-mail: ricky139@bellsouth.net

MINISTER OF MUSIC NEEDED - Wake Forest, NC: congregation seeks musician. 1) The duties include working directly with the Pastor in order to assist and cooperate with him in Christian Worship, 2.) Playing during Sunday morning worship service, 3). Rehearsing with various choirs one night per week, 4.) And accompanying the Pastor on engagements to other churches. Please forward a cover letter and resume to: Evans Grove Missionary Baptist Church 12700 Creedmoor Road Highway 50 Wake Forest, NC 27587 (919) 870-8874

MINISTER OF MUSIC VACANCY: THE SPRING GREEN MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH - Warrenton, NC: seeks a Minister of Music to provide musical direction and accompaniment for 4 choirs in the church. This person will work closely with the Pastor to provide spiritual leadership in the ministry of Jesus Christ through music, i.e. hymns, spiritual songs, and praise and worship music that glorifies God.

We are accepting resumes from candidates with the appropriate qualifications. (Specific qualifications listed in beginning of staff musician section.) For additional information please send inquiry or resume to: Spring Green Missionary Baptist Church PO Box 924, Warrenton, NC 2589 Rev. Dennis G. Lindsay, Pastor

MUSICIAN NEEDED - Oakboro, NC: Must be a Christian available to serve every Sunday. Prepare Choirs and Praise Team for Sunday morning worship. Rehearse with choirs on scheduled times. Be available to accompany Pastor and choirs to church functions. Direct congregation in congregational hymns. Must be able to play by ear as well as read music To apply call: (704) 532-6813 or E-mail to Galilee, NC@aol.com Galilee Missionary Baptist Church PO. Box 644, Oakboro, NC 28129

CHURCH MUSICIAN VACANCY: FIRST MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH - Selma, NC: seeks musician for youth choir. Must be a Christian with good character. Requirements: • Play the organ and piano • Able to play sacred and gospel music • Read music and have the ability to play by ear Send resume to: Reverend S. Manfred Isom, Pastor 415 Star Ruby Drive

Knightdale, NC 27545

MINISTER OF MUSIC NEEDED: THE PENN AVENUE MOUNT OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH - Lewiston, NC: seeking a musician for a station church, a Christian, who is responsible, has good character and a good reputation. Requirements: *Plays the organ and piano *Able to work with a diverse group of singers *Experienced in all sacred music *Reads music and is versatile in playing by ear Send resumes or responses to: Mount Olive Baptist Church PO Box 214 Lewiston-Woodville, NC 27849 Attention: William W. Peele, Jr.

MINISTER OF MUSIC WANTED: THE PENN AVENUE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH - Oxford, NC: currently seeking a Minister of Music. QUALIFICATIONS: (Specific qualifications listed in beginning of staff musician section.) *Will be responsible with the pastor's approval in hiring other musicians if deemed necessary. Salary: Negotiable Sunday worship services. Service begins each Sunday at 11 a.m. with the exception of 5th Sunday services which begin at 10 a.m. Please send resume to the above listed address or inquiries may be made by calling one of the above listed numbers.

CHURCH MUSICIAN NEEDED - Warren County, NC: Knowledge of music and the ability to play by ear is appreciated. Presently, morning worship service is held every fourth (4th) Sunday, but we are considering an additional Sunday for services. Must be able to play for youth choir and adult choir. Church is located in Warren County, North Carolina. For further information, please call: (252) 257-0221

CHURCH MUSICIAN: THE CEDAR GROVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH - Gibson, NC: seeking a person to serve as Church Musician. Qualifications: (Specific qualifications listed in beginning of staff musician section.) Salary negotiable. Please send resume to Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Church at this address. Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Church 14600 Railroad St. Gibson, NC 28343

CLASSIFIEDS

CHURCH MUSICIAN:

THE FRIENDSHIP MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH - High Point, NC: accepting resumes for a Church Musician. Qualifications: (Specific qualifications listed in beginning of staff musician section.) Salary negotiable.

715 West Willis Ave.
High Point, NC 27260

JEFFRIES CROSS BAPTIST CHURCH

- Burlington, NC:

Send cover letter and resume to Jeffries Cross Baptist Church, 2015 Jeffries Cross Rd., Burlington, NC 27217. Phone: 336-226-9626. We are currently seeking a musician who will work directly with the pastor to provide spiritual leadership in the music ministry. Qualifications: 1. A Christian with piano, keyboard, organ ability; read music, play chords, teach harmony, direct choirs, conduct two rehearsals per month with four choirs, accompany pastor on engagements, accommodate traditional and contemporary worship styles.

CHURCH MUSICIAN - Hope Mills, NC: Swans Creek Missionary Baptist Church, North Carolina. Qualifications:

- *A Spirit-filled leader - divinely gifted in music ministry
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A detailed job description is available on-line at www.forsythjpm.org/chaplain. ■

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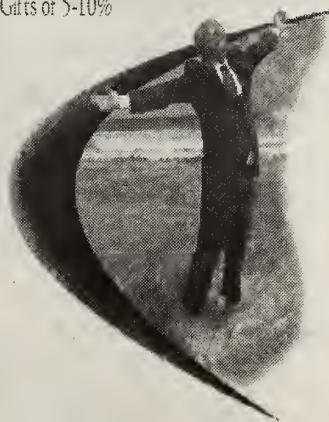
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The Laymen's League of First Baptist Church in Raleigh (Dr. Dumas A. Harshaw, Jr., Pastor) have generously volunteered their time with this project.

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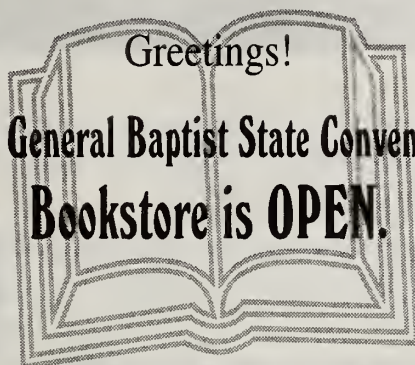
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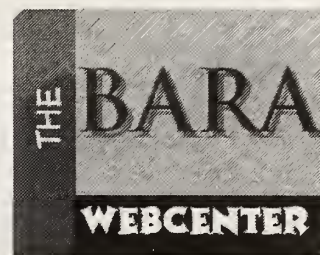


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BAPTIST INFORMER

Volume 126, No. 7

Publication of the General Baptist State Convention of N.C., Inc.
Voice of 500,000 North Carolina Baptists

July 2003

Phoenix Village: Princeville, North Carolina

By Dr. Archie D. Logan, Jr.
Executive Secretary-Treasurer

Following the Hurricane Floyd disaster in Eastern North Carolina

its major goals: The completion of Phase I of our Phoenix Village Project. Originally we had proposed and partnered to complete a 15 home subdivision. With the building of

Alexander, employee and Dr. Logan in Princeville working on land grading. Photograph 2 is a picture of Global Construction completing site preparation on lots #9 and 10. The

grading and clearing work was completed June 10, 2003. God continues to bless our ministry. Thank you for your support and prayers.



Global Construction, Co-owner Carlton Lanier, his son Kevin; Keith Alexander, employee and Dr. Logan

the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc., coordinated by its Executive Committee, General Board, and Housing Committee, Dr. Thurman B. Everett, Chairman, responded with relief, emergency aid and assistance. The first two permanent homes built in Princeville after the flood were built by the GBSC, Inc., on Suggs Street. The Convention made a commitment to build additional homes for flood survivors in the Town.

The GBSC has reached one of

the homes on lots #7 and #8, we have placed 5 homes in the sub-division in a 36-month period. This is significant for us because we have supported a large part of our development independently. We continue to be the leading African-American faith-based Convention working in Princeville.

Shown are recent pictures of work going on in the subdivision: Photograph 1 shows Global Construction, Co-owner Carlton Lanier, his son, Kevin; Keith



Global Construction completing site preparation on lots #9 & 10.

GBSC Trinity Session July 17-19

By Dr. Archie D. Logan, Jr.
Executive Secretary-Treasurer

Greetings! The entire Charlotte, NC area is preparing to receive the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina in its 2003 Trinity Session. The session will be held at the Second Calvary Baptist Church, 114 Nelson Avenue, Charlotte, NC. The host pastor is the Reverend Ralph M. McCormick. Representation is \$200.00 for the Session.

The local committee and the GBSC Auxiliary Presidents are making special provisions for you. We encourage you to pre-register. The Trinity Session unifies our Auxiliaries Annual Session. It will feature joint sessions and activities for the: Laymen's League, Congress

of Christian Education and Usher's Conventions. Each group will report on its work, provide teaching and training classes, fellowship and evangelistic opportunities. Also there will be "Discipleship Class" orientations for youth and adults. Join us in dedicated prayer daily for the success of this session. Bibles, books and literature will be available for purchase from the GBSC Bookstore. We will feature several of our Convention writers and authors. Contact Dr. Johnny R. Freeman at 336-272-0822 if you have books and materials you would like to have available for sale at the session. GBSC life membership pins are also in stock. Call Baptist Headquarters for more information: 800-639-4272.

See TRINITY, Page 6

Our 136th Year • 1867 - 2003

From the Editor's Desk

By Rev. Dr. Terry Thomas, Editor

There are times appropriate words cannot be found to express the appreciation of our hearts and the amazement of our minds for what God has done. Such is the case for me in trying to find the appropriate words to express my appreciation for the privilege to serve as editor of one of the greatest African American religious newspapers of our time, the Baptist Informer. To know my journey is to understand how this privilege leaves me more amazingly astonished with the abundance of God's grace. It further proves that what Rudolf Otto says about what one feels after an encounter with God is true. It is *mysterium tremendum*. In other words, it is a feeling that leaves the mind with an astonishment and a blank wonder over the wonder workings of God. To have this privilege bestowed upon me, borrowing the words of Sarah, God has made me laugh.

I think one of the great acts of kindness that one human being can offer to another human being is their trust. The Baptist Informer reaches people on different levels of awareness. It sits in the hallways and libraries of churches throughout the breadth of this land. It serves as a source of hope for many seminarians as they look for possible opportunities to put their training into practice. Unusual it would not be to find some African American woman of beauty and grace, while sitting under the dryer of a beauty salon, reading the Baptist Informer as she patiently awaits for her hair to be styled in a manner that can only be modeled and worn by an African American woman. Although it is not verbally said, but in the mind set of many across this land, as they are in search for insight to minister to their pressing need, they want to know is there a word from God to be found in the Baptist Informer. For our president the Rev. Dr. Charles Bullock and our Executive Secretary the Rev. Dr. Archie Logan, who understands the deep gravity of the Baptist Informer, to extend to me their trust as the editor of the Baptist Informer is an act of kindness that has warmed and brought alive and awakened laden possibilities in my mind and in my heart. Ralph Waldo Emerson said "Trust men and they will be true to you: treat them greatly and they will show themselves great." I pray that my appreciation of the trust that our President and our Executive Secretary have given to me will be seen through comments that reflect lives that have been enhanced, enriched and

empowered through what was printed in the Baptist Informer.

This, however, is an awesome challenge. The measurement for improvement is more relatively seen and identified when the task is to commence the building of something that does not exist versus trying to build upon something that already exists, and is established. One of the books that I constantly reflect upon for inspiration is Booker T. Washington's autobiography, *Up From Slavery*. Booker T. Washington held his first class at now Tuskegee University in a renovated hen house. The setting of his first class was not what Dr. Washington had envisioned upon coming to Tuskegee. Prior to coming to Tuskegee, Dr. Washington stated in his autobiography that he had expected to find there a building and all the necessary apparatus ready for him to begin teaching. To his disappointment, as he wrote, he found nothing of the kind.

Such is not the case for me by any stretch of the imagination as I assume the role as editor of the Baptist Informer. I come into a situation that is rich and firmly built. My biggest challenge first and foremost is not to raise the standard, but to maintain the standard that has been so greatly held by others before me. I find myself in the same predicament as Elisha when he succeeded Elijah. In succeeding Elijah, it was not Elisha's task to establish a mantle. He was called to take up the mantle that Elijah had carried. That in itself was an awesome challenge placed before Elisha. My first task is a tremendous challenge, maintaining the standard that was established before me, and then in time elevate that standard in terms of being relevant to the needs of this present age.

With that awareness, I recognize that my shoulders are not broad enough to handle the responsibility of the Baptist Informer alone. To help shoulder the responsibility of the Baptist Informer, with the consent of our President and Executive Secretary, we have established a Baptist Informer Editorial Staff. At this point in time, the Baptist Informer Editorial Staff includes the Rev. Dr. D. S. Briggs of Mt. Zoar, Durham; the Rev. A. T. Griffey, III, pastor of Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, and Carol Smith, Managing Editor of the Baptist Informer, and the Rev. Dr. Ricky Woods, pastor of First Baptist West Charlotte. In my discussion with these persons on ways in which the Baptist Informer can better serve our convention and our nation, as I listened to their creativity, insight, imagination and

thoughts, my enthusiasm for the possibilities of the unlimited heights that our paper can ascend has been greatly enhanced. We are open to recommendations of other interested persons to serve on the Baptist Informer Editorial Staff.

Now the goal of the staff is to continue to do as the name of our paper implies – to educate, train and instruct. In order for our staff to do that effectively, we need to hear from the constituents of the General Baptist State Convention to educate, train and instruct us on your needs and your expectations of the Baptist Informer. We need to know the areas and the topics that you would like for our convention to focus on through the Baptist Informer. It is our objective to follow the commitment of our President – to serve the present age. Gregory R. Peterson in his book, *Minding God*, asserts, "For theology to be relevant, it must make claims about the world. To make claims about the world, theology must inevitably engage rational modes of thought." The same can be said as it relates to serving the present age. To serve the present age effectively, we must engage to understand what the needs of the present age are.

In our discussion of how we hope to construct the Baptist Informer, we have thoughts of designing sections for the following relevant topics monthly or periodically.

- A section for homiletic in which sermons will be shared and topical discussions on the art of preaching.
- Interviews featuring retired or the elderly pastors on their life and their views of the pastorate.
- Coverage of autobiographies of outstanding African American religious leaders of the past will be done for the sake of passing eternal values and truths

to our youth.

- A segment on spirituality for the purpose of providing some suggestions on how to improve our walk with God. This will be done under the title, **Developing a Green Thumb: Personal Growth in Spirituality.**

- A section will be dedicated addressing the needs and concerns of our rural churches.

- Consultation will be provided for churches that desire training for the Pulpit Search Committee. Periodically, Youth Sermons will also be features.

Our President must be complimented for his insight of the importance of the role of ministries in our church manifested in his theme for our convention – To Serve the Present Age. The Greek word in the New Testament for ministry is *diakonia*, which means the office or work of a servant, attendant, minister or deacon. To minister to someone is to offer a service. In serving the present age, the church must create ministries to meet the needs of people. It is our intent to create a segment in our paper to showcase different models of ministries that are presently working in different churches throughout this land, which also includes new models being unveiled in academia through Doctor of Ministry Programs.

This is just the beginning of our discussion on what we hope the direction the Baptist Informer will take. We look forward to your input. We love the Lord and we believe that we have been called according to this purpose. Therefore, eyes have not seen, ears have not heard, nor has it entered into our hearts' and minds what the Baptist Informer, through God's grace, will become and the lives it will lead to

EDITOR, Cont'd Next Page

THE BAPTIST INFORMER

Publication of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc.
Voice of 500,000 Baptists

(USPS 042-680)

Dr. Archie D. Logan Jr., Executive Editor

Dr. Priscilla A. Brodie, Executive Editor

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2003	Charlotte	Second Calvary
2004	Goldsboro	Bear Creek Association
2005	Fayetteville	Union Association
2006	Reidsville	Zion
EVANGELISM CONFERENCE		
2004	Greensboro	East White Oak
2005	Charlotte	Chappell Memorial
2006	Winston-Salem	Galilee Missionary

EDITOR, Cont'd From Page 2

Christ.

Again, I am extremely thankful for this opportunity, but as those who have served before me know, the Baptist Informer is under a compulsion. The Baptist Informer is under a compulsion that forces those who contribute to sit down and write. The contributors to the Baptist Informer must sit down and write for they know, as John the Revelator knew, that the thoughts that are stirred in their minds are of Divine origin. The words printed on the pages of the Baptist Informer, we believe, are sent from Him who sits upon the throne. I believe the contributors to the Baptist Informer hold dearly the command in Revelation 21:5. There it says, "And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new, and he said unto, Write: for these words are true and faithful!" Excitement about the new things God is doing compels

contributors to the Baptist Informer to write. The news of what God is doing must go out, and the verbal forms of communication do not always reach everyone. We have brothers and sisters in Christ who are scattered all over this land. So to submit to them the news of the new things God is doing, we must continue to write. We must continue to write for this present age must know that the truth of God and the faithfulness of God are still marching onward. The Baptist Informer, for the General Baptist State Convention, is the vehicle that carries the words written by those who are inspired to write by Him who sits on the throne. The Word of the Lord, says Dr. William Shaw, came to me, and when it came to me saying, Because the word of God comes to us saying, we must write for that which comes to us saying, is true and faithful.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

To: Subscribers of the Baptist Informer
From: Dr. Archie D. Logan, Jr.
Date: June 1, 2003
Re: Renewing Your Subscription

Greetings and Peace! We hope that you have been enjoying the Baptist Informer with its wonderful articles and updates on the events within the churches of the General Baptist State Convention.

This announcement is to let you know that we are in the process of updating and correcting our database of subscribers to the Baptist Informer. Soon, we will be monitoring subscription expiration dates and ending subscriptions when they expire.

Your individual expiration date is located on your mailing label on every issue of the Baptist Informer. Please make a note of this date and read the following:

For those that have expired: You will continue to receive the Baptist Informer through August 2003. After this time, we will begin the process of closing expired subscriptions. We encourage you to renew your subscription within the next few weeks, so that we can continue your issues uninterrupted. You will not receive another notice.

For those that are current with your subscription: We ask that you check your mailing label and send in your renewal a month prior to your expiration date.

Currently, the renewal rate is \$20.00 per year. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Renée at (919) 821-7466. Your contribution ensures that this needed ministry will continue. We appreciate and thank you for your support!

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To The General Baptist Family

By Charles T. Bullock,
President

"....Be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind"(Rom. 12:2). "But to every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ" (Eph. 4:7, 12).



Dr. Charles
Bullock

To the General Baptist family "Grace be to you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ, Who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father:"

By the grace of God we continue to move forward with the Lord's work in this the one hundred thirtieth year of the General Baptist State Convention. As we look back from whence we have come, we count our blessings and praise God for this guidance. As we look to the future and press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus, we seek His guidance as we endeavor to follow Spiritual Directions in order to do the Lord's work.

I shared in a previous article that the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina is in existence because of the local associations and individual believers of a local con-

gregation called the church. Therefore as disciples of Christ, we emphasize that the church is not in the world to convince persons of its relevance to contemporary life. Rather it is here to convict this present age of sin through the preaching of the gospel. The church is not in the world to win the allegiance of each individual to an organization. It exists for the purpose of glorifying God. The purpose of the church is not to proclaim ideology compatible with the world's outlook. The church is the custodian and minister of spiritual truth as revealed in the scriptures. Therefore the convention must be a reflection of everything the church is called to be and give spiritual directions for the body as a whole to follow.

The apostle Paul writes to the church at Corinth, I Corinthians 14:3, *"For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saint,"* And in v. 14 *"Let all things be done decently and in order."* As we address the concerns of our convention, it is our intents to always bear in mind that God is not the author of confusion, but of peace. We do, we will put for the every effort to do, all things decently and in order. The appropriate committees, (Personnel Committee, the Budget Committee, the Program Committee, the Executive Committee, the General Board and other committees) are meeting or will be meeting to address some of the concerns that have been brought to our attention.

The Task Force appointed by the president will be giving us a report on our Unified Program or on our Unified Giving. They will evaluate the percentages allocated to the Convention's Objectives and give some directives concerning revising

and/or updating the Unified Program. I have asked the budget chair, Mr. Thomas Spivey, to evaluate the auditor's report and give some directives as to the best procedures to reduce the deficit. The Program Committee chaired by Rev. Reginald Wells is asked to help develop all programs of the Parent Body and its auxiliaries to assure that there are no duplications. All auxiliary presidents and chairpersons are asked to serve on the

Program Committee. This is so that we may examine the orderliness and reverence of our worship services.

We look forward to our Unity Convention July 17-19 in Charlotte and the Woman Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention July 27-31 in Winston-Salem. May God's blessings be upon each of us as we continue "to serve the present age".

GBSC Is Available To Work With Churches

By Dr. Archie D. Logan Jr.

Greetings! The General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina is available to work with your church during the time you do not have a Pastor. We will work with the Deacons and other officers to provide guidance as you search for a new pastor to lead your church.

Some of the things we offer:

- We have ordained Baptist ministers available to assist the Deacons in carrying out the Church Ordinances: Lord Supper and Baptism.
- We have ordained clergy who can serve as an "Interim Minister" in your church.
- Some suggested workshops:
 - ✓ How To Select An Interim Pastor?
 - ✓ How To Call A Pastor?
 - ✓ How Much Should We Pay Our Pastor?
 - ✓ Church Administration
 - ✓ How To Plan A Church Budget
 - ✓ Effective Bible Study
 - ✓ Evangelism Classes
 - ✓ Special Training For Deacons/Trustees
 - ✓ Christian Education Planning
 - ✓ Church Development

Please call if you are interested in any of these services!

1-800-639-GBSC (4272)

UPCOMING SESSIONS

- ♦ **July 17-19, 2003** **GBSC Trinity Session**
Second Calvary Baptist Church, 114 Nelson Ave., Charlotte, NC, 704-398-0147
- ♦ **October 26-30, 2003** **GBSC Annual Session**
Ebenezer Baptist Church, 2020 W. Sugar Creek Rd., Charlotte, NC
Host Pastor: Leonzo Lynch, 704-598-2219

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"Total..."

By Executive Secretary-Treasurer Brodie



Dr. Priscilla Brodie

Lord, I will lift mine eyes to the hills, knowing my help is coming from You. Your peace You give me in time of the storm. You are the Source - of my strength, You are the

strength - of my life. I lift my hands in total Praise to you. A-men! — A-men! — A-men, A-men! A-men! A-men! — Richard Smallwood

The theme of the Woman's Convention this year relates to "Serving The Present Age: Transforming The

Family Through Christian Values/Ethics". Two of our scriptures, Matthew 22:37-40 and John 14:15, show that the foundation for Christian Values/Ethics is the Love of and for God that translates into the way we live and walk in fellowship with God and our "neighbor". All we do should be Christ-like, whether in worship or service. For how can we worship God Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Three In One) if we do not trust Him and obey His Word? His Word in summation, according to Jesus is: "Thou shalt Love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind", and "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself" — Matthew 22:37-39.

Therefore, in total praise to God does He not require that we, His household of faith, live and walk in the Spirit? "If a man says, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar, for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? And this commandment have we from him. That he who

loveth God love his brother also" — I John 4:20-21. Then should not our prayer be, "Our Father in heaven, help us live and walk in the Spirit that we can give You the Praise, Total Praise, due You "from the rising of the sun to the going down of the same", as we serve the present age, in Jesus' name — Amen? God is THE SOURCE of all good and perfect gifts.



Dr. Julias McDonald

Representation and Pre-registration fees should be sent to the office by July 9, 2003. Fee information and

forms have been mailed to District Chairpersons, Circle, Union, and Auxiliary Presidents.

Budget: The 2002-2003 Budget is in the amount of \$806,055.00: Foreign Missions, \$80,200.00; State Missions, \$565,855.00; Shaw University,

\$49,500.00; Shaw Divinity School, \$33,500.00; Central Children's Home, \$36,500.00; and Baptist Assembly, \$40,500.00. Checks and Money Orders should be made payable to the Woman's Baptist State Convention and sent to Woman's Baptist State Convention, P. O. Box 1818, Raleigh, NC 27602.

A BELATED HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!
(Inadvertently omitted in June's paper)

FEES & SCHEDULES For the 119th ANNUAL SESSION OF WBH&FMC

Benton Convention Center, Winston-Salem

July 28 - July 31, 2003

Representation Fee	Senior	Young Adult	Youth	Form Color
Church Circle.....	\$119.00	49.00	49.00	Yellow
County/City Union.....	\$119.00	49.00	49.00	Green
Woman's Auxiliary.....	\$119.00	49.00	49.00	Pink
District Conference.....	\$119.00	49.00	49.00	Grey

Registration Fee (Note: Class registration is not included in individual registration fee.) Advance: \$10.00 each (Deadline July 11, 2003); On-Site Registration: \$11.00 each.

Year-Round Committees / Fellowships: Funds should be sent to the Woman's Convention office between June 2 and July 11, 2003. Collection stations will also be set-up in Section II, South Main Hall, Upper Level, Convention Center.

Banquet 6:00 p.m. - Monday, Benton Convention Center

Advance Tickets: \$35.00 Each (Deadline July 11, 2003) \$36.00 at the door. Available tickets may be purchased on site from the WBSC Finance Office or at the door.

Missions Prayer Breakfast - 6:45 a.m. - Tuesday, Adam's Mark Hotel

Advance Tickets: \$15.00 each (Deadline July 22, 2003); \$16.00 at the door. Available tickets may be purchased on site from the WBSC Finance Office or at the door.

Ministers' Wives Luncheon - 12:30 p.m. - Tuesday, Adam's Mark Hotel

Advance Tickets \$15.00 each (Deadline July 11, 2003); \$16.00 at the door. Available tickets may be purchased on site from the WBSC Finance Office or at the door.

Youth Prayer Pizza Party - 6:00 p.m. - Wednesday, Benton Convention Center

Advance Tickets: \$7.00 each (Deadline July 11, 2003) \$8.00 at the door. Available tickets may be purchased on site from the WBSC Finance Office or at the door.

Mission Classes (annual session) - 8:00-9:15 a.m. Tuesday-Thursday, Adam's Mark Hotel

Senior Class Pre-Registration: \$5.00 Registration on-site: \$6.00 Form color: Blue

Pastor's(Only for Pastors; Taught by a Pastor): Class Pre-registration/Registration is not required for Young Adults or Youth. Class fees do not include textbook. Pre-registration deadline is July 22, 2003

President's address - Wednesday - Upper Level, Benton Convention Center: Advance donation: \$2.00 per copy (Deadline July 11, 2003); On-site donation: \$3.00 per copy.

Youth Projects - Tuesday, Benton Convention Center: Project forms with funds "should be sent to the Office of the Woman's Convention by July 7, 2003" for participants in the "Shaw," "Have-A-Heart" and "Youth Officers and Supervisors' March."

Make all checks/money orders payable to: Woman's Baptist State Convention. In order to avoid standing in long lines, send funds, along with the appropriate form(s), between June 2, and July 11, 2003, to: EXECUTIVE SECRETARY-TREASURER, WOMAN'S BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION, P.O. BOX 1818, RALEIGH, NC 27602 For additional information, forms, please contact the Convention's office at (919) 833-4823 / Fax: 919-833-7599 / Email: wbbfmc@wbb-fmc.org

Thanks, God Bless! Dr. Priscilla A. Brodie, Executive Secretary-Treasurer

2003 Sunday School Manual

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available! They are \$15.00 each, the topics are listed below. Please contact Portia Brandon at (919) 821-7466 or (919) 772-0474 to order your copies!

Lessons From Geese

The Sunday School Planning Team

How To Deal With Ineffective Workers

Preparing To Teach: Studying God's Word

The Teacher

Factors In The Teaching Process

Factors In The Learning Process

The Need For Sunday School

How To Conduct An Annual Promotion Day

How To Find, Allocate, and Use Space

How to Obtain Community Demographics

How to Discover and Enlist Workers

How to Organize Your Sunday School

The Church Members' Role In Sunday School

Preparing To Teach: Interpreting God's Word

Using the Computer for Children's Bible Classes

60 Teaching Methods Media for Various Age Groups

Strategies For Building A Great Commission Sunday School

Successful Ideas Encouraging Sunday School Workers to Train

How to Start and Maintain Sunday School Leadership Team Meetings

Coping With Change As You Reorganize Your Sunday School Ministry

What Every Pastor, Superintendent, and Teacher Should Know About Sunday School

How to Promote High Attendance Days

Age-Level Characteristic of Human Growth

Organize Your Sunday School for Outreach

10 Steps to Start a New Sunday School Class

The Sunday School Superintendent

The Pastor Role In Sunday School

The Sunday School's Purpose

Lesson Planning: Themes & Objectives

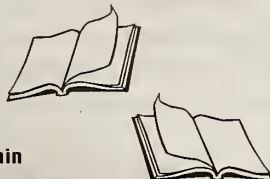
Lesson Planning: Methods & Curriculum

Evaluation: Student & Teachers

"Ideals" For Sunday School Growth

Bible Study Tools

Establish A Greeter Program



ILLUSTRATIONS

- A Diagram of A Sunday School Organizational Chart
- Sunday School Recruitment Card
- Sunday School Membership Survey Form
- Certificate of Recognition

- Sunday School Visitor Card
- Prospect Card
- Certificate of Promotion

ECCLESIASTES 3:4 "... AND A TIME TO LAUGH..."



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*Psalms 46:10 "Be Still and Know That I am God"
 He's More God Than I Ever Need"*

The Nehemiah Prayer Chain

of the
**Woman's Baptist Home &
 Foreign Missionary Convention**
 North Carolina, Auxiliary to GBSC



Enlistment Form

The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord; but the prayer of the upright is his delight. (Proverbs 15:8)

Confess your faults to one another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. (James 5:16)

Name _____
 (Organization or Individual)

Mailing Address _____

Telephone Number _____

E-Mail _____

District _____ Group _____

Department _____
 (Senior, Young, Adult, or Youth)

Chairperson - Mr. Robbie Diggs Co-Chairperson - Mrs. Colene Stanley

(Please return to the Office within seven (7) days)
Woman's State Baptist Convention



Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention of North Carolina

Auxiliary to the General Baptist State Convention, Inc.

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

"Study to show thyself approved unto God..." II Timothy 2:15

WOMAN'S BAPTIST HOME AND FOREIGN MISSIONARY CONVENTION SCHOLARSHIPS

Purpose?

The Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention Scholarships, established in 1994, provide annual scholarships to a Youth and a Young Adult to encourage, support, and enhance post high school training and career success.

Amount of Scholarships?

A \$500 non-renewable scholarship will be awarded to a Youth and a \$500 non-renewable scholarship will be awarded to a Young Adult.

Who May Apply?

Youth - a high school graduating senior, or equivalent.

Young Adult - enrolled in a technical school, college, or university.

Criteria?

The applicant must be:

- an active member of a missionary Baptist church that supports the Woman's Convention.
- a well-disciplined academically and socially, an active member of the local missionary department (as a youth)
- endorsed by his/her pastor
- selected by the State Scholarship Selection Committee

Where to Secure and Send Applications?

Applications may be obtained from and sent to the Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention Office.

What are the Timelines?

Applications must be received by the Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Woman's Convention on or before May 31.

Notification to award recipients will be on or before July 30. Awards will be made during the Annual Session of the convention in July.

How Will Scholarship Funds Be Processed?

Scholarship recipients will provide the Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Woman's Convention official notification from the institution to which funds are to be sent.

All funds will be sent directly from the Convention to the school, college or university.

Other Financial Assistance Opportunities

Cora Pair Thomas - The Cora Pair Thomas Scholarship Fund is to be used to assist needy Liberian students first, and any needy foreign African student attending Shaw University second. Any unused funds will be sent to the superintendent of our school in Liberia at the end of the year.

Ministers' Wives - Funds received through the Ministers' Wives Fellowship will be used to provide assistance to students in Shaw Divinity School.

Ellen S. Alston Memorial Fund (ESAMF) - The "Reserve Fund", established in 1977, will be used as an Emergency School Aid Fund for any Shaw student. The need for the funds is to be determined and executed jointly by the President and Executive Secretary-Treasurer, (ESAMF) - one half of the annual board self-denial).

Shaw University or Shaw Divinity School Scholarship - A scholarship may be awarded to a student enrolled in Shaw University or Shaw Divinity School. The amount may not exceed \$200 per semester and will be limited to two semesters. All checks for these funds are to be made payable to Shaw.

Mail your application to:

The Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention
 P.O. Box 1818
 Raleigh, NC 27601

or deliver application to:

601 S. Wilmington St.
 Raleigh, NC 27601
 Telephone 919-833-4823

Tentative Schedule

Thursday, Morning, July 17, 2003

- 8:00 AM – Registration & Laymen's League Executive Meeting
- 8:00 – 9:00 AM – Trinity Class: Spiritual Gifts
- 9:00 AM – Opening Session
- 9:15 AM – Bible Study Teaching
- 10:30 AM – Youth Hour, President Ben David
- 11:30 AM – Discipleship for Youth & Adult
- 12:00 Noon – Adjourn

Thursday, Afternoon, July 17, 2003

- 1:30 PM – Devotion
- 1:45 PM – Laymen Reports and Business Session
- 3:00 PM – Laymen's President's Address, Mr. John Gladden
- 3:45 PM – Worship (Preaching at its Best)
- 4:30 – 6:00 PM – (Classes for those not attending the Banquet)
Teaching The Jesus Way
Discipleship Training Orientation

Thursday, Evening, July 17, 2003

- 7:00 PM – Trinity Session Banquet (Sponsored by Laymen) Rev. J. Louis Smith
- 8:00 PM – Discipleship Teaching (For those not attending the Banquet)

Friday, Morning, July 18, 2003

- 8:00 AM – Registration
- 8:45 AM – Devotion
- 9:00 – 10:30 AM – Morning Class Sessions
Spiritual Gifts
Purpose Driven Church
Teaching The Jesus Way
- 10:45 – 12:15 PM – Equipping and Educating the Saints Part 1
- 12:30 – 2:30 PM –
PRESIDENTIAL LUNCH (\$10.00)
Dr. Charles T. Bullock

Friday, Afternoon, July 18, 2003

- 2:30 – 3:00 PM – Sharing of Discussion Responses, President Diane M. Newell
- 3:00 – 4:30 PM – Equipping and Educating the Saints Part 2

Friday, Evening, July 18, 2003

- 6:30 – 7:30 PM – Youth & Discipleship Training
- 7:30 PM – Evening Worship & Host Church Program, Rev. Ralph M. McCormick

Saturday, Morning, July 19, 2003

- 8:00 AM – Registration
- 8:45 AM – Usher Processional
- 9:00 AM – Devotion
- 9:15 – 10:20 AM – Usher Workshop Adult
- 9:15 – 10:20 AM – Usher Workshop Youth (Separate Session)
- 10:30 – 11:15 AM – Usher Workshop Adult
- 10:30 – 11:15 AM – Usher Workshop Youth Discipleship
- 11:30 AM – Reassemble
- 11:35 – 11:45 AM – Youth Report of Session
- 12:00 Noon – PRESIDENTIAL REFLECTIONS, Mr. Forest M. Eaves, Jr.

Saturday, Afternoon, July 19, 2003

- 12:30 PM – Usher's Workshop
Closing Trinity/ Unity Session

Teaching, Training and Preaching will highlight the Trinity Session: As we continue to follow the VISION of GBSC President, Dr. Charles T. Bullock, the Trinity Session will focus on educational excellence, spirituality and fellowship. Session participants will feature: Mr. Gregory Gabriel; Rev. Clifford Matthews; Rev. Jamale Johnson; Dr. Benjamin Hinton; Dr. William Thurston; Rev. J. Louis Smith; Mr. Roy Davis, Moderator M. T. Clowney; and others.

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North Carolina Baptist Ushers' Convention
Auxiliary to the General Baptist State Convention
of N.C. Incorporated

Saturday, July 19, 2003

at

SECOND CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH

114 Nelson Avenue • Charlotte, NC 28216 • 704.399.0378

Host Pastor: Ralph M. McCormick

8:00 A.M. Registration

Mr. Forest M. Eaves, Jr., President

Voice (704) 372-5339

Fax: (704) 372-0014

Mary M. McKoy Belle, Secretary

Home (757) 340-8976

EMail: MMB Joy Ministry@aol.com

Maude B. Sartor, Publicity Chairperson

Home (704) 398-1312

Directions to Second Calvary Baptist Church:

FROM 74 EAST: Marshville and Monroe. Take 74 West to Brookshire Freeway (which is also Hwy. 16) make a left turn onto Nelson Ave.

FROM 85 NORTH: Concord, Kannapolis, Salisbury, Thomasville and Lexington. Take 85 south to Brookshire (Hwy. 16) make a left onto Brookshire and then right onto Nelson Ave.

FROM 85 SOUTH: King Mountain, Forest City, Rutherfordton, Shelby, Gastonia and Belmont. Take 85 north to Brookshire (Hwy. 16) make a right onto Brookshire. Then make a right onto Nelson Ave.

FROM HWY. 27, 16: Mt. Holly, Lincolnton, and Stanley. Take Hwy. 27, 16 to Brookshire. Make a right onto Nelson Ave.

General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina

3RD Trinity Annual Sessions

53RD Annual Laymen's League

130th Annual Congress of Christian Education

54 Annual Usher's

of the

GENERAL BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION

OF

NORTH CAROLINA, INC.



Host: SECOND CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina

Theme: "TO SERVE THE PRESENT AGE" EPHESIAN 4:11&12(KJV)

July 17 – 19, 2003

DR. CHARLES T. BULLOCK
President, GBSC

DR. ARCHIE D. LOGAN
Executive Secretary-Treasurer, GBSC

BAPTIST INFORMER

All Camera Ready Ads, Articles, etc. are due no later than the

10th OF THE MONTH

EXAMPLE:

June 10th for the July paper

July 10th for the August paper

August 10th for the September paper

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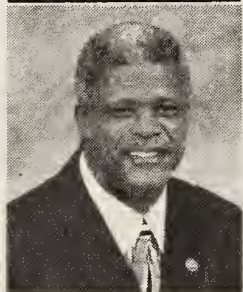
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Cultivating Unity Through Christian Discipleship

By Rev. William A. Thurston, PhD,
Program Coordinator
Christian Education Coordinator

All followers of the Lord Jesus Christ are commanded to "make disciples", as expressed in the Great Commission.



Rev. William A. Thurston

Since this commandment is not a great suggestion, it is not an option; and it is not only for pastors or missionaries or evangelists.

Every Christian is expected to continue the mission of Jesus to advance God's Kingdom, in the home, the church, and the world.

In this view, Christian Discipleship is a common thread that could tie every follower of Jesus together into a single garment of destiny, as Kingdom Builders for God's Glory. The Trinity Session, of the General Baptist State Convention (GBSC) of North Carolina,

provides an immediate occasion to highlight the relative autonomy and the potential interconnectedness among the Laymen's League, the Congress of Christian Education, and the Ushers. With anticipation of Cultivating More Unity, this Session will convene at Second Calvary Baptist Church, from the 17th to the 19th of July 2003, in Charlotte, North Carolina.

The Trinity Session Program will include three interactive workshops on the 17th, 18th and 19th, on ways to incorporate seven biblical principles of Christian Discipleship in the ministries provided by the Laymen, the Congress, and the Ushers. More specifically, these three workshops will present how adults and young people in these ministries could (1) spend quiet time with the Master, (2) live in the Word, (3) experience God in worship, (4) tell others about Jesus, (5) be good stewards, (6) have genuine fellowship, and (7) help others – without neglecting the primary responsibilities of their life and ministry.

The need for these workshops emerged from the evaluation of the GBSC Mid-Year Session. This event

introduced the new Certificate Program in Christian Discipleship of the GBSC, which is offered through its Associations to local churches. While the Mid-Year participants were primarily adults, it is the hope of the GBSC that the Trinity Session will involve young people, with adult support, to initiate discipling youth ministries.

Hence, the Discipleship Workshops seek to enhance the "works of service" (Ephesians 4:12), among the Laymen, the Congress, and the Ushers.

In order to make plans for these workshops, we ask that a representative of these auxiliaries in local churches, please fill out the following information form and send it to me. ■

GBSC TRINITY SESSION

WORKSHOPS IN CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

Local Church Name _____

Pastor _____

Address _____

Phone Number (Area Code) _____

Estimated Number of Youth _____

Estimated Number of Adults _____

Fax to 919-546-8341 or Call Dr. Thurston at 919-546-8457/8265

Ushers make plans for Charlotte

By Mary M. McKoy Belle
Secretary/Reporter

Greetings my brothers and sisters in the blessed name of Jesus! How wonderful it is to be servants in the Ministry of Ushering! The Executive Board continues to focus on our commitment as servants elected to provide leadership for the Ushers' State Convention. As President Eaves and other members gathered at our Baptist Headquarters in Raleigh, NC., it was evident that this welcomed challenge was foremost in our thoughts during discussions and planning on May 31 (2003). We hope that you are making plans now to join us in Charlotte, NC on Saturday, July 19, during the GBSC Trinity Session (July 17-19) at Second Calvary Baptist Church. Ushers are requested to wear our state ushers' uniform (white uniforms for ladies and dark suits for men) on Saturday. Please pray diligently for a unity fellowship in Christ. Also, you are encouraged to bring your financial obligations to the convention.

Several previously held activities have strengthened the Ushering Ministry of various churches and districts. "Striving for Success" was the theme for

District III Ushers' Annual Day Program held on Sunday, April 27th. The 4:30 p.m. service was hosted by newly elected pastor, Rev. Ralph McCormick and the Second Calvary Baptist Church. Our State Ushers' Convention President and also the President of District III, Mr. Forest Eaves, greeted ushers and visitors. Sister Margaret Chambers, 2nd Vice-President, concluded her theme remarks by encouraging the ushers to stand firm with God's guidance. Ms. Ernestine W. Crawford, a reporter for District III, informed us that Host Pastor McCormick delivered a "dynamic message" from Colossians 2:6-10 and 14. In addition to the visitors, he told over seventy-five ushers that you must understand what success is if you are going to strive for it. If you are not careful, he stated, you would adopt what the world considers success. You will operate in a system that does not coincide with your spiritual nature. When you allow things to be your success, you are substituting them for God. Reverend McCormick declared that you will not try to find completeness in the world when you know who Jesus is. You must be grounded in the word of God if you are going to be successful and complete, he further stated. Some

Christians don't stay in the word long enough to be rooted. Reverend McCormick concluded his remarks as he reminded everyone to continue in Christ to find success, live in obedience and the Lord will open up avenues that you could not imagine. The officers of District III were introduced and certificates were given for Appreciation of Service to several ushers. Dean C. V. Owens, Pastor of First Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Charlotte, NC made remarks. The Second Calvary Mass Choir rendered music for the service. 1st Vice-President, Bro. Saylor Mattison, (District III) was honored to preside prior to the conclusion of a wonderful fellowship according to President Eaves.

Silver Mount Baptist Church initiated a month of excellent activities for various churches in District III as they celebrated their Ushers' Ministry Anniversary Dinner at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 4. Saturday evening, May 10, awaited the 10:00 a.m. arrival of the youth from District III as they prepared to celebrate their Annual Day Program at First Mount Zion Baptist Church in Charlotte, NC. Additionally, Mecklenburg General Baptist Association Ushers' Auxiliary met at Friendship Missionary Baptist

Church, Charlotte, NC. The Program Committee of District III enjoyed an early morning repast at one of the local restaurants (Bojangle's) in the Charlotte area to plan various activities. The 8:15 a.m. meeting was held on Saturday, May 24. Mr. Roy Harris, Assistant Dean for the North Carolina Ushers' Convention and a resident of Asheville, NC, joined other workshop presenters, Dr. Haywood Gray, Pastor of Temple Memorial Baptist Church in High Point, NC and author of *A Ministry of Service: A Ministry of Joy*, and Mrs. Eddie Culbreth of Saint Luke Baptist Church in Charlotte, NC for District III Annual Workshop. Greater Mount Sinai Baptist was the host church for the June 21 activity.

The Ushers' Union of the Johnston District Missionary Baptist Association observed their Annual Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, June 14. First Missionary Baptist Church in Smithfield, NC served as host for the 8:00 a.m. fellowship.

Churches, associations and unions are encouraged to send your ushers' news to:
Mary M. McKoy Belle, 536 Diamond Plum Circle, Virginia Beach, VA 23452;
e-mail: mmbjoyministry@aol.com;
phone (757) 340-8976.

USHERS, Cont'd on next page

130th Annual Session Congress of Christian Education and 3rd Trinity Convention

Submitted by Diane M. Newell, President

The 130th Annual Session of the Congress of Christian Education auxiliary to the General Baptist State Convention will convene in Charlotte, North Carolina. The Reverend Raleph McCormick, Pastor and members of the Second Calvary Baptist Church will serve as host. This year marks the 3rd Annual Trinity Convention of the Congress of Christian Education, the Laymen League and the Usher's Convention of North Carolina.

The Congress theme, "To Serve the Present Age: Equipping the Saints for the Work of the Ministry" emphasizes the focus of this convention session.

Ephesians 4:11-12 "and he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ" (KIV). As the teaching arm of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina the mission of the Congress of Christian Education is clear. The Congress of Christian Education must be about the business of preparing God's people for the work of

service, through teaching and training, so that the body of Christ can be built up, until we all reach unity in the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God, and become mature in the fullness of Christ.

The goals of this session are to provide training that will benefit the members of the General Baptist State Convention to develop members into models of Christ-like character and conduct, mobilized for ministries in their churches.

GOALS:

To help Christians discover and develop their spiritual gifts

To help Christian leaders lead with more knowledge and confidence

To assist members who are new in the faith, to assimilate into the body of Christ, and into their local church

To make sure that Baptist doctrine is taught

The desired outcome as a result of this session is, that as participants return to their local churches, associations and communities, they will be more "equipped" to serve, and to teach another the truths of the faith.

USHERS, Cont'd from page 7

North Carolina Baptist State Ushers' Convention

DRESS CODE

(The Recommendations of the North Carolina State Ushers' Convention Executive Committee: The Established Dress Code for all Local Ushers and Nurses Aides)

Young Adults, Adults and Senior Women Ushers:

- White uniforms of common styles, covering the knees, with long sleeves below the elbow (summer and winter). Black uniforms or no other colors are recommended by the State Ushers Convention at anytime. Two-piece white uniforms and white women suits are acceptable if all are made alike but is not preferred.

- No pant suits are to be worn by women ushers at any of the church services.

- The uniform is to be worn without decorations. Only the State Usher's Pin is to be worn on the left side over the Local Usher's Badge.

- On the occasion of an Ushers' Anniversary celebration, ushers may wear corsages; but all corsages should be made alike and of the same color. White and low to mid-height heel shoes and off-white stockings; white gloves and small white ear pearls shall be worn also.

- A simple hair style shall be worn with no bows, pins, hats or headpieces.

Young Adults, Adults and Senior Men Ushers:

- Uniformly tailored black or dark dress suits are desired by uniform color is required. White shirts and black ties shall also be worn.

- Black shoes, white gloves and socks of choice.

- White men's dress suits uniformly made and uniformly worn are accepted for summer wear. White shoes, socks of choice and white gloves.

- The State Usher Pin should be placed on the left lapel. No outside fountain pens.

- There shall be no shoulder length hair.

Children and Youth Ushers (Boys and Girls):

Children and Youth ushers should follow the above codes for females and males respectively. The uniforms may be black, blue or white (tops and bottoms) as desired. The bottoms should be uniform and cover the knees. No sandals shall be worn.

Nurses Aides:

White uniforms (top and bottom), white shoes and white stockings.

Nurses Pin on the left side of the uniform.

Nurses Cap.

Note:

Uniformly dressed means the tops and bottoms should be the same color. All church ushers should have the State Usher's Pin and a Local Usher's Badge. When marching together ushers should give consideration to their height.

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DR. CHARLES T. BULLOCK, PRESIDENT

DR. ARCHIE D. LOGAN, JR., EXECUTIVE SECRETARY TREASURER

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DEADLINE: JUNE 16, 2003

By Dr. John H. Grant
Vice President At Large

The Three Ds of Non-Profit Boards

Duties of non-profit boards, including the General Board of the General Baptist State Convention, may be summarized in the three Ds: 1) duty of care, 2) duty of loyalty, and 3) duty of obedience. These are the legal standards against which all actions taken by directors are held.¹

Dr. John H. Grant

1. Duty of Care: Requires General Board members (directors) to be reasonably informed about the

Convention's activities; participate in Board decisions in good faith, and with the care of an ordinarily prudent person in similar circumstances. In summary, the duty of care requires the Board, as well as individual Board members to pay attention to the activities and operations of the Convention.

2. Duty of Loyalty: Requires General Board members to exercise their power and influence in the interest of the Convention and not in their own interest or the interest of some other entity including, but not limited to, one in which they have a formal relationship. When acting on behalf of the

Convention, Board members must put the interest of the Convention before their personal and professional interests.

3. Duty of Obedience: Requires that General Board members ensure compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, adhere to the Convention's

Constitution and by-laws, and remain guardians of the mission. Guardians of the mission may entail revisiting and revising the mission from time to time to keep it relevant in addressing the needs changing times and situations.

To effectively serve this present age our calling to fulfill, within the context of our Convention and General Board,

- 1) duty of care,
- 2) duty of loyalty, and
- 3) duty of obedience

General Board members are challenged to reflect on our individual personal Board involvement and be honest about how we measure up.

All General Board members, please note the following upcoming Board Meetings and make sure you have them on your calendars. I look forward to seeing you there.

• **July 8, 2003, 11:15 a.m.** at the First Cosmopolitan Baptist Church, Raleigh, with Dr. W. B. Lewis, host pastor.

• **September 30, 2003, 11:15 a.m.** at Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, Winston-Salem, with Dr. A. Thomas Griffey, III, host pastor.

¹ For more details see Bruce R. Hopkins, JD, LLM, *Legal Responsibilities of Non-Profit Boards*, Washington, D.C.: BoardSource, 2003, p.2.

Associational Headquarter Buildings – The Trent River Association

By Dr. Howard W. Parker, Jr.
First Vice President

Depending on whom you ask, there are many positives and negatives in utilizing an Associational Headquarters Building for the up building of God's Kingdom. A positive perspective is that



Dr. Howard Parker, Jr.

it gives the churches of the association a central place for all functions. A negative perspective is the expense of upkeep, considering the large number of events a building, of that capacity, will be used to accommodate.

Nevertheless, there are a growing number of Associations in North Carolina, that opt to build or even to restore a building for the purpose of establishing an Associational Headquarters.

Over the next several months, I will focus on the Associations in our state that utilize an Associational Headquarters Building. I am asking each Moderator, whose Association has a Headquarters Building to submit detailed information about their Headquarters. Please forward all pertinent information to the e-mail address or fax number referenced at the end of this article.

As the clouds gave a steady outpour of rain on Sunday, March 30, 2003 at 3 p.m., the dreams of the Members of the

Trent River Oakey Grove Missionary Baptist Association became a reality. With more than 800 persons in attendance, the magnificent dedication of the Trent River Associational Headquarters Building commenced. The building is located in the historical Georgetown Community of Jacksonville and is built on land purchased by the fore-parents of the Association, more than 100 years ago. Originally, the land was purchased to provide a location for an educational facility (high school) to teach black children; however, the state finally provided a school. The site is located just down the street and around the corner from the First Baptist Church of Jacksonville, Dr. J. C. Brown, Pastor.

In the dedication sermon, Moderator Dr. W. K. Raynor, now 79 years of age, stated: "We praise the Lord and thank Him for helping us to see the dream become a reality."

Moderator Raynor recommended to the Trent River Oakey Grove Association, in 1990, that they should build an Associational Headquarters. The state of the art facility sits on 18 acres of land, with a seating capacity to accommodate 800 people. This brick and steel building has a first class sound system, and a ceiling projection screen in the sanctuary.

The Rev. C. B. Chadwick, who serves as Secretary of the Trent River Oakey Grove Association, states that the sound system, music instruments, pews, and all furnishings as well as facility, is valued at about one million dollars. The funds for this dream were realized with the help of the twenty-three churches of the association, the two unions, the asso-

ciational auxiliaries, personal donations and pew rally.

Future plans of the Trent River Association are to build the Fellowship Hall, which will include the Dining Area, and construct a Recreational Center near the pond on the property.

Our Prayers and Congratulations are extended to Moderator W. K. Raynor, the Officers, Staff, Unions, Auxiliaries, Pastors and Churches of the Trent River Oakey Grove Missionary Baptist Association on their "GREAT SUC-

CESS" Ecclesiastes 10:10.

Moderators who oversee an Associational Headquarters Facility, we would like to feature your Association. Please forward detailed information regarding the "wisdom" the Lord bestowed upon you and your Associational Members, to build your Headquarters Facility, as follows: Dr. Howard W. Parker, Jr.; e-mail: hwparker@earthlink.com ; fax: 252-756-4539.

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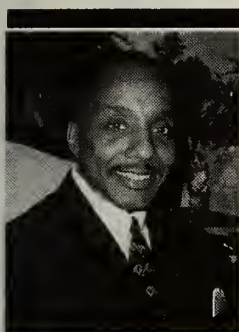


The
Prayer
Line

Rev. David K. Miles M.Div.
919-264-9249 9pm - 7am

Second Vice-President

By Rev. Nilous M. Avery, II - M. Div.
2nd Vice-President



Rev. Nilous
Avery, II

(Galatians 1:3-5, NIV).

The mission thrust and work of the Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Convention revolves around four poles – **Evangelism, Education, Health Care, and Hunger Relief.**

- **Evangelism** – Preaching and teaching toward conversion and discipleship is a priority of the Lott Carey mission thrust.
- **Education** — Investing in the academic, vocational, and theological preparation of adults and children results in enlightening heads and hands as well as hearts.
- **Health Care** – Preventive, restorative, and reproductive health issues are critical aspects of mission efforts, especially in parts of the world where health care is not accessible and/or affordable.
- **Hunger Relief** – Assisting communities and families to grow crops and animals results in improving the quality of life for people in economic distress.

In keeping with its mission to improve the quality of life for people, the Lott Carey Convention has been actively involved in addressing the HIV/AIDS epidemic that is ravishing many areas in the foreign mission field. The convention has sought to bring attention to the plight of two specific areas: Africa and the Caribbean.

What are the critical HIV/AIDS issues in Africa and the Caribbean? HIV/AIDS is the leading cause of death in Africa. AIDS has killed an average of more

than 2 million African people yearly since 2001.

More than 5,500 people of sub-Saharan Africa die of HIV/AIDS every day (i.e. – The tragedy of 9/11 happens every day in Africa!) About 15,000 people are infected daily with HIV (one every eight seconds).

Over 3 million Africans were newly infected with HIV/AIDS each year since 2000.

Over 29 million Africans in the sub-Saharan region now live with HIV.

Over 400,000 people are living with HIV/AIDS in the Caribbean.

Some 200,000 AIDS orphans are living in Haiti.

The above statistics are startling and mind-boggling. The Lott Carey ministry has sought to take the lead through its HIV/AIDS initiative in confronting this pestilence. Some of the steps that are being taken include:

- Connecting African, Caribbean, and United States faith-based HIV/AIDS initiatives.
- Presenting HIV/AIDS information to our children.
- Meeting with leadership in several African countries and regions in the Caribbean to begin development of strategies to delay the further spread of HIV/AIDS.
- Providing the means for clothing, education, food, and medicines to orphans and widows in several areas of Africa and the Caribbean.

Beloved, you can help by developing an HIV/AIDS ministry in your local area of ministry, and making a contribution to Lott Carey to support this arm of the foreign mission field. In the next several articles, this office will provide more information and inspiration that will provide opportunities for individuals, local churches, associations, unions, and others to invest in Lott Carey's objective of "building a better world through Christian missions."

"May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all." (2 Corinthians 13:14, NIV)

Contact: Reverend Nilous M. Avery, II, P. O. Box 2767, Salisbury, NC 28145-2767; 704-637-0954 ☎; 704-637-1137 (fax); averyrevkin@aol.com (e-mail).

The North Carolina State Laymen's League Auxiliary



sponsors the

Annual Laymen's Retreat for Men and Boys

"To Serve The Present Age"

Ephesians 4:11-12

Session I: July 9-10, 2003

• Session II: July 11-12, 2003

PURPOSE

To provide men and boys the opportunity to participate in worship, Bible study, counseling, Nature study, crafts, and recreation in a Christian Environment.

ACTIVITIES

The activities provided are Bible study, swimming, talent show, basketball, softball, horseshoe, checkers, lectures, Bible drills, worship services, workshops, watermelon feast and marshmallow roast.

WHAT TO BRING

Two sheets, bath and face towels, one pillow, pillow case, soap and other toiletries, a blanket, flash light, Bible, pencils and paper. **Please do not bring a radio or valuables!**

FEE & SCHEDULE

\$25.00 per person

Arrival time in 9:30 - 11:30 AM each session. Departure time is 1:30 PM each session.

LOCATION

The location of the Baptist Assembly is on a rolling 62 acre tract, ten miles northwest of Laurinburg in Scotland County on Bunch Road.

IMPORTANT

Registration Policy

1. Campers are taken on first come, first serve basis until facilities are filled.
2. If the session you request is filled at the time your application is received, you may be reassigned to the other session, pending verification from the contact person indicated on your application. Please designate one contact person for each church.
3. Completed registration forms with required fees must be mailed by June 25, 2003.
4. There will be no on-site registration. For more information or directions call Baptist Headquarters (919) 821-7466.

Talent Show • Ideas for performances:

Skills • Songs • Rap (that is considered with the theme) • Oration • Poems
Rules: Must be Christian or theme oriented. No unsportsmanship (booing, heckling, etc.). Men and Boys may participate.

Please make copies of this form and complete an individual registration for each man or boy:

Please detach registration form and mail by JUNE 25, 2003 with check payable to:
General Baptist State Convention

The North Carolina State Laymen's League, 603 S. Wilmington St., Raleigh, NC 27601

Name _____ Age _____

Grade _____ Address _____

Church _____ Pastor _____

Church Location _____

Parent's Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Parent's Signature: _____

Do you have any known health problems or allergies? _____

Session Requested: ☐ I. July 9-10 or ☐ II. July 11-12

Contact Person: _____

Home Phone _____ Business or Cell _____

ABCs of Public Education Connects with No Child Left Behind

Submitted by Dianne Newell
President Congress of Christian Education

Improving student achievement is the goal of the ABCs of Public



Diane Newell

Education, launched in 1995 in North Carolina, and the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act, signed into federal law in January 2002. Several key parts of the new Act are well-aligned

with North Carolina's ABCs. For some other states that do not have accountability programs in place, the challenges are greater. North Carolina is receiving millions of new federal dollars to implement NCLB (the Elementary & Secondary Education Act of 2001) provisions.

Both the ABCs and the No Child Left Behind initiatives focus on greater local school accountability for student achievement and staff quality, rewards for success and sanctions for not meeting standards, and flexibility in resource allocation. In addition, just as parent involvement has been key to the success of the ABCs, NCLB expects parents to

be included by schools in the development of improvement plans both for the school and for their children.

Congress of Christian Education Presents an Education Advocacy Report Education Advocacy Report Goals

1. Provide a framework for understanding the language of public education.
2. Share the findings of the Advisory Commission on Raising Achievement and Closing Gaps.
3. Increase the understanding of the No Child Left Behind federal legislation.
4. Encourage the establishment of partnerships of GBSC churches with schools and/or school districts to provide human resources to assist in improving student achievement.
5. Share strategies that are already being implemented by GBSC churches.

Facilitated By
Diane M. Newell,
State Assistance Team Reviewer
North Carolina Department of Public Instruction
School Improvement Division
Raleigh, North Carolina 27606

J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly Day

In an effort to reduce the indebtedness to the renovation project of the J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly Friday, July 18, 2003 has been noted as the **J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly Day** during this year's 130th Annual Session of the Congress of Christian Education. During the 130th anniversary year of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc. in the founding city of Goldsboro, North Carolina each auxiliary was asked to pledge **\$130,000.00** to the development of our assembly.

Today, we still need to rise to that challenge as a collective body. Our 2002 - 2006 Congress of Christian Education Theme Song is "Count on Me", how appropriate at such a time as this to borrow from the words of the song writer, "The Lord has need of workers to till His

field today..." Will your response be "O blessed Savior, count on me"? If we are to "Serve the Present Age" as a faith based organization we must fulfill the vision given to our leaders by God for building and developing our **J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly**. It is our duty to lift up Christ who allows us through His will to build a building to serve the present age in our ministries. The J. J. Johnson Assembly must serve as a site for holistic ministry that extends beyond the membership of the General Baptist State Convention into the community. Churches are asked to bring or send a **special offering of \$130.00** to this year's session. Churches making this special offering will be recognized during this session. **Be counted in the Number!**

REGISTRATION AND REPRESENTATION FORM

136th Annual Session

GENERAL BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION

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ANNOUNCEMENT...

CONGRESS OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ANNOUNCES GBSC BOOK SALES

We are encouraging all GBSC Pastors, Ministers and laypersons who have authored books and/or training manuals to contact us. It is the desire of our Congress President to expose your literary work to the Convention body and the general public. Many in our great GBSC family are not aware of all the talented authors we have in our state, whose books would be an asset to any Pastor, Minister or church seeking to do effective ministry in the twenty-first century.

All authors are asked to contact **Dr. Johnny R. Freeman at (336) 272-0822** if you wish to have copies of your books made available during the upcoming Congress July 17-19. The location for this year's Congress is Second Calvary Baptist Church, 114 Nelson Ave., Charlotte, NC. There is no vendor fee to display your books during this event.

By Dr. Jasper P. Reed, Historian, GBSC

One of the joys of being the historian is the ability to revisit a series. The General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina is blessed with six past



Dr. Jasper
Reed

presidents. I have had the opportunity to write about two of them and this month (July) I am revisiting the series. In addition to this rich legacy we as a convention are blessed with many Senior Pastors with many years of

service. In the listing of past presidents, we find longevity as one of their outstanding characteristics.

The Apostle Luke, in his writings found in the Acts 26:16 of the Apostles, gives a word that the Holy Spirit leads me to introduce our subject for this month. "But get up and stand on your feet, I have appeared to you to appoint you as my servant. You are to tell others what you have seen of me today and what I will show you in the future, TEV." This describes the call of our subject, past president Dr.

A Contemporary History Maker

John Ruffin Manley. The son of the late Ruffin and Beverly Manley and a product of Murfreesboro and the Hertford County school system, Dr. Manley was married to the late Gloria Royster Manley and is the father of one son and grandfather of two grandsons. II Peter 1:10, "So then my brothers, try even harder to make God's call and His choice of you a permanent experience; if you do so, you will never abandon your faith." In response to this word, Dr. Manley matriculated at Shaw University where he earned the A.B. and B.D. degrees. He continued to earn a Th.M. from Duke University. He continued to prepare himself by being certified as a hospital chaplain by the NC Memorial Hospital in Chapel Hill and did additional work at UNC Chapel Hill.

Dr. Manley was called to Pastor the First Baptist Church in Chapel Hill in 1946. He also served 46 years as Minister of Hickory Grove Baptist Church in Chapel Hill. His 57 years of ministry at First Baptist is reflective of a life of service to mankind and he continues to give of his time, talents, and energy freely in the facets of his ministry. He remains involved, actively, at the community, state, and national levels. In 1978 he was chosen to the presidency and became

the leader of the GBSC of NC, Inc. As president Dr. Manley led the convention in carrying out Ephesians 4:11-13 in the use of spiritual gifts for the work of the ministry. He led the convention in accomplishing its defined goals which includes financial support for Shaw University and Divinity School, The Children's Home, Lott Carey, and State Missions. He supported training in Christian Education, Church Administration, and Social Justice. He further led the convention in establishing working relationships with other church bodies, black and white, both state and nationally. Finally the convention, under his administration, received two grants for a health care program in the sum of one million dollars. These were his platform initiatives.

When asked about his major administrative challenges, he listed the following: leading the convention to vote by ballots and to elect its officers for a single four-year term, centralizing its assets and giving the WBH&FMC oversight of the J. J. Johnson Assembly, raising funds for the new Baptist Headquarters, negotiating a one hundred year lease from Shaw University at \$1.00 per year for the headquarters building. His greatest joy of having served is to see unfolding before his eyes what God can do with a body of

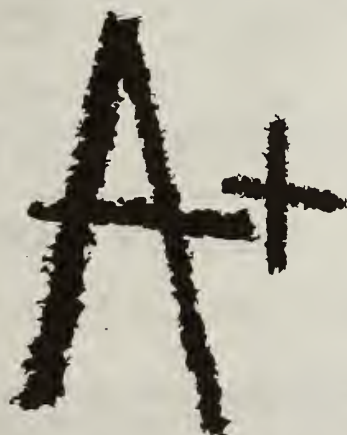
churches committed to His Will.

Remembering Acts 26:16 scripture, it ended with "You are to tell others what you have seen of me today and what I will show you in the future." In retrospect Dr. Manley was the first African American elected to the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City School Board. He served on the Chapel Hill Planning Board; President of the N.A.A.C.P.; President of the Local Ministerial Alliance; Chairman of the Local Anti-Poverty Program; Moderator of the New Hope Association; and GBSC in many capacities. He also found and still finds time to serve State Government on many Task Forces, Commissions, and committees. Currently he serves as a member of the Lott Carey Executive Board, and serves as the first president of the board of directors, which is building a \$3.7 million dollar affordable housing facility for seniors on Merritt Mill Road in Chapel Hill.

Seeks Information

In response to inquiries concerning local Church history, the Historian is soliciting the names, addresses, and vital information of any convention members who would be interested in developing a workshop format to help persons establish and maintain the historical information as it pertains to their local church, pastor and/or congregation. If you are interested, please send this information to State Headquarters or to the Historian, 6916 Aberdeen Dr., Wilmington, NC 28411. ■

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Knowing God's Will

By Dr. Donaldson Jones, President

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus

Christ, who directs our days and determines our destiny.

In this article I would like to share some thoughts with you under the rubric: **Knowing God's Will - The Foundation of Decision Making.**



Dr. Donaldson Jones

All Christians are leaders at some level. Whether leading a family, a small group, a para-church ministry or the church itself, we all must make decisions which effect not only ourselves and others, but ultimately the very cause of Christ.

May I suggest four basic questions that if answered affirmatively will greatly assist us in ascertaining His will. Oh, what an awesome and abundant assurance it is to know that you are aligned with the head and heart of the Highest, and thus walking and working in the wonderful wisdom of His will.

The first question we should ask: Is what I want or am about to do a Heavenly pronouncement? In other words, we must ask ourselves is there any scriptural statement or principle that calls for or sanctions the act or course of action in question? If there is not a body of scripture that can be brought to bear on the matter at hand and speak to the situation, it would be best to cancel or make the changes needed to become biblically sound. You can not anticipate blessings on anything that lacks biblical accord.

We as Christians are citizens of two worlds, standing at the intersection of time and eternity watching an old world order of sin and Satan pass away and the world of "The New Creation in Christ" eminently emerging. Christians in any age are

always counter-cultural in character and conduct. We are transformed non-conformists, with a special sensory apparatus and service agenda.

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And not be conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." Rom. 12:1-2.

Once it is clearly settled that the act or course of action you have envisioned is not something just manufactured in the mortal mind, but is the message and mandate of our maker and master and thus the will of God.

The second question we should ask is: Is my heart propelled? When the heart is propelled we are not only directed by the declaration of the Word, but also driven by a deep fire of desire that burns within. It is a Holy Spirit started fire that falls from heaven in the soul and blazes on the altar of the heart. Thank God for the fire of desire that is formed in us by the spirit of God. Consider the apostolic announcement of Ph. 2:13, "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do his good pleasure." When God puts something in and on our hearts we can count on two things. The first thing we can count on is that it is definitely something not poison but positive. "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you; plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11, NIV.

The second thing we can count on is that whatever it pleases him to plant in our hearts he will produce. He produces what he plants. "Delight thyself also in the Lord; and He shall give thee the desires of thine heart." Ps. 37:4.

When the heart is propelled by a holy passion that takes hold of your person, this is a clear second affirmation that the action or course of action you are about to pursue is the will of God.

The third question we should ask as

we seek to decipher God's will is: Do I have His provision? While you may have a deep decisive desire to do a certain thing that would be good and is right in and of itself, you must have the introspective integrity and intelligence to look logically at the inventory issues. Do I have or can I acquire the personnel, power, purse, and other prerequisites required to bring what is desired to fruition? If you can not answer this question affirmatively, no matter how decent the desire or noble and good the aspiration it is not at this time or place in the will of God for you to go forward with this action.

God will never assign a commission without accompanying provision. And when you go out on a God-given commission, you've got his guaranteed companionship lo, I am with you always even unto the end of the world. Amen. Matt. 28:20.

Fourthly and finally, the last question to ask in discerning His will is to ask: Do I have His peace? You may have a pile of scripture passages to back up your proposition. Your conscience may have a strong sense of oughtness. And you might very well be surrounded by all the supplies that could carry the venture to victory, but there is still one vital ingredient missing - Peace.

Peace can't be derived from without or within, it must come down from above. Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you." John 14:27. If you do not have the peace of God while all other considerations may be fine, you still will lack the serenity and wherewithal to step out on faith and trust God to see you through.

This is God's way of saying to you this action or course of action is my will but not for you. It is my will for someone else, somewhere else or some other time.

Certainly, the compass of God's will is not always clear and simple to read. But we must believe as the songwriter has said, "What God has for me is for me." Thanks be to God there is one thing God has for them that keep their mind stayed on Him. Peace!

"Thou wilt keep Him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusted in thee." Isaiah 26:3.

Dear daughters of divinity, stately sons, of the Cosmic King: I shall leave you with these memorable words of an anonymous poet:

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Where the mercies of God cannot sustain you,
Where the peace of God cannot calm your fears,
Where the authority of God cannot over-rule you.
The will of God will never take you
Where the comfort of God cannot dry your tears,
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By A. T. Griffey, III
Statistician, GBSC

Peace Be Unto You: Something To Eat

Our world is full of people in deep Spiritual need. Most have never placed their trust in Jesus for the forgiveness of sin and are literally starving right before our eyes. But even many Brothers and Sisters who love the Lord are desperately hungry to know Him more, or they have

been wounded and are in need of long term Spiritual nourishment.

God's Word tells us to have open eyes and a soft heart such that we can recognize the needs and bring them before our Father in prayer; "In everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God"

(Philippians 4:6). But then we are told to carefully listen and fully expect to be put to work.

One afternoon, a crowd of over 5,000 people had gathered to hear Jesus teach; "He welcomed them and spoke to them about the kingdom of God, and healed those who needed healing" (Luke 9:11). The disciples saw it would soon be time to eat. They recognized the need, came before Jesus, and "presented their request".

Luke 9:12-13: "Late in the afternoon the Twelve came to Him and said, 'Send the crowd away so they can go to the surrounding villages and countryside and find food and lodging, because we are in a remote place here.' He replied, 'You give them something to eat.'"

When the disciples approached Jesus they presented the need as well as their solution. They knew the people were growing hungry, but their solution was to send them elsewhere for food. We often make this same mistake when we limit God by our own vision and understanding. Jesus' solution to this need was to bless the few provisions the disciples could gather and then accomplished His



Dr. A.T.
Griffey, III

work through their hands; "They all ate and were satisfied" (Luke 9:17).

God never asks us to do something without also providing the necessary tools to accomplish all He desires. We have been empowered by His Spirit and equipped through

His Word. Yes, we must continue to pray; but our prayers ought to be with a grand expectation that God will direct us to carry His life-giving food and be a vessel for His healing.

There can be no greater work here on earth than to take part in restoring someone's relationship to our Heavenly Father. Only God can truly heal, but He has invited us to join Him in this awesome work. Let's continue to lift up the many needs to God in prayer, but then let's prepare for His answer - His invitation - which calmly says, "You give them something to eat."

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Reference: Lewis Chapel in Hong Kong 2003

Submitted by Mazie D. Lewis,
Corresponding Secretary

Wake County Usher's Union News

The Wake County Usher's Union, an auxiliary of the Wake County Missionary Baptist Association presented its annual Ushers Convention on Saturday, May 3, 2003, at Fait Missionary Baptist Church, Raleigh, NC with host pastor Dr. G. A. Jones.

Anthony Hinton presided and carried forth the theme: "To Serve This Present Age, My Calling To Fulfill..." Following the Ushers March, led by Lanis Fowler, the devotion was presented by Annette Brown, Ruth Jones, and Robert Barner. Dr. G. A. Jones, Jr., gave everyone words of welcome to the Ushers Convention with a response presented by Alfredia Collins. The convention proceeded with adoption of the program and minutes and greetings from Rev. Paul Anderson, Wake County Association Moderator, Nancy High, N. C. State Usher's Coordinator, and Reginald Davis, President of Minister and Deacons Union. Harold Booker followed with presentations of certificates and all enjoyed the youth talent contest chaired by Charles Upchurch. Committee reports were given and the President's Address was presented by Harold Booker, President of the Wake County Usher's Union. After Kaye Russell gave announcements, Terri Carter introduced the speaker for the convention and an uplifting and spiritual sermon was given by Dr. David Forbes, Pastor of Christian Faith Baptist Church.

The President's Address provided words of encouragement and guidance for all ushers. These words are shared with everyone in the following text:

The Joy of Ushering

Ushering is a ministry of joy. Persons who have never served as ushers or who do not understand what an usher's

job is may find this a difficult concept. Some see little joy in standing throughout most of the worship, having to accept and deal with criticisms from all kinds of people, or in having to serve in one of the most noticeable positions in the church while striving not to bring too much attention to oneself. Unless one is spiritually prepared for this kind of service, it is doubtful that he will find ushering either fulfilling or joyful.

Ushering becomes a ministry of joy when the usher has had a true, personal, and life-changing encounter with Jesus Christ.

A person who has not been born again can serve as an efficient seater of crowds or a good distributor of bulletins or other hand-outs, but he will never know the true joy of ushering.

Ushers find joy in ushering because it provides an opportunity to honor the God of their salvation. The conversion experience is so central to and so important to the life of a Christian that he sees all other events of life in relation to conversion. Conversion clears a person's past and colors his future. Conversion marks the turning point in a person's life, the point at which a person really begins to live. Christians are so thankful for the new life that they are overjoyed to do service in the name of the One Who has made this conversion possible. Conversion is the first qualification of the Christian usher and it is the basis of the usher's joy.

LOVE spiritually qualifies a person for service as an usher. Love is a powerful tool in the usher's tool kit. With it comes the motivation for service and the strength to endure. First, an usher must love God. The love of God must be full and without reservation. It must be primary and stronger than the love for any other thing. Secondly, there naturally

stems from a love of God a love for other people. On this matter, it is the teaching of the Bible that it is impossible to love God without loving people. Thirdly, a love for people provides the basis for a love to the church which is the Body of Christ in the earth. We love people and the church provides a natural mechanism for expression of our love of God and people. Finally, a person who loves God will love people; and one who loves God's people will love God's Church; one who loves God's Church will love whatever work one can perform in God's Church. Therefore an usher will love ushering.

Ushering is a service rendered to God and therefore ushers must have faith. Our faith is our belief in and trust in God. Faith in God is fundamental to successful and abundant living. Belief in God gives our life purpose, meaning and direction. Our faith leads us to know that we are God's people and that He requires our fullest measure of love and devotion.

Ushers find comfort, strength, and courage in faith. We ushers must therefore nurture and develop our faith. We nurture our faith by participating in worship, prayer service, and Sunday School. If we carefully seek to develop a better life as a Christian, then we simultaneously develop as a better usher whose service finds favor with the members of the congregation and God.

Now for a word of encouragement to you ushers, "Don't let the devil steal your Joy." Some people say that the love of money is the root of all evil but I say this is not true, the devil is the root of all evil. The very name d-evil has the E-V-I-L in it. The devil is in the midst of all that is evil. He shows up at every church service, every prayer meeting, every church conference, every Sunday School service, every usher's ministry meeting and all other church meetings. If we ushers let him into our hearts, he will steal the very joy we get from ushering. Here is how he works:

He'll make you treat persons differently when you welcome them to the church and seat them.

He'll make you think that being a little late won't hurt, your fellow ushers will understand.

He'll make you think that it's better to wear the short tight uniform rather than the long loose fitting one.

He'll have you wear the long flashy earrings rather than the small pearls.

He'll have you take a message directly to a person in another usher's area rather than pass it to the nearest usher.

He'll have you chewing gum when no one is looking.

He'll have you take your late arriving family member to the front of the church after service begins.

He'll have you thinking, "I don't need to attend practice." I've been ushering all my life."

He'll have you thinking, "There's no need to attend the ushers meeting." I already know what they're going to do."

He'll have you thinking, "This is the only position I need to usher at," since I usher here every Sunday."

He'll have you thinking, "If I don't show up to usher this Sunday, they'll never miss me," even though it is my Sunday to usher.

He'll have you thinking, "I ushered this morning, let someone else usher at the afternoon service, I'm tired."

He'll have you saying, "I don't like this old ugly badge, so I don't think I'll wear it."

Once you let the devil into your heart, he distorts your thinking and these are some of the results. These are just some of the tricks the devil will bring to the Church if you let him. The devil is smart but he is lazy, he does very little work on his own, he gets you to do his work. If these statements sound familiar to you, just be aware that the devil is here, he is busy, and his goal is to take the joy out of your ushering. But he cannot do you any harm if you don't let him in. Keep him out of your heart. ■



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The theme of the ISM's 3rd Annual Conference is "STRATEGIES TO REACH OUR AT-RISK YOUTH". All GBSC churches, youth ministers, community organizations, and all interested persons are invited to come to Shaw University's Thomas Boyd Chapel on



Rev. Michael Smith, Sr.

August 1-2, 2003 in Raleigh, NC. The conference's goal is to equip churches, develop new strategies and inspire inno-

vative ways to reach at-risk youth throughout our state. There is a growing crisis in our communities that must be addressed by the church regarding wayward and misguided youth. What does it mean to be at-risk? My working definition of being at-risk means to be living or associated with a lifestyle that will lead to crime, incarceration, or death. I have also discovered the times we are living in expand the potential for being at-risk to youth who are not living a wayward lifestyle. In essence any young person can be at-risk due to the growing crisis in our communities.

This past week I took my daughter (17) to UNC Chapel Hill to attend a summer program entitled the Research Apprenticeship program for rising high school seniors who are interested in pursuing a medical degree in college. As I looked at the many other academically

gifted students, my mind went back to the many at-risk youth in our communities who would never be exposed to this wonderful program. I thought about the three young men (all 19 years old) incarcerated at the Federal Correctional complex last week in my office. I thought about the many young men who are opting for the gangster lifestyle. I thought about our congregations where you do not see as many young men as you would like to see on Sunday mornings. Then I thought about the church. What are we doing to reach our at-risk youth? I am glad to say there are many wonderful ministries seeking to reach our at-risk youth. Yet, there is so much more that has to be done if we are to turn the tide for many at-risk youth we are not reaching.

THEREFORE, YOUR PRESENCE AND INPUT AT THIS CONFERENCE IS

SO IMPORTANT! WE NEED YOUR HELP TO REACH OUR AT-RISK YOUTH IN OUR COMMUNITIES. THE LORD IS CALLING YOU TO BE A PART OF THIS STATEWIDE CONFERENCE. OBEY HIS VOICE AND LET'S JOIN TOGETHER TO MAKE A GREATER DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF AT-RISK YOUTH FOR THE GLORY OF GOD OUR FATHER. THE TIME IS NOW FOR EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES AND ACTION!

CONFERENCE INFORMATION (see ad below left)

*Registration will begin on Friday, August 1st at 3:00 p.m.

*Location - Shaw University's Thomas Boyd Chapel

*Opening of the conference will begin at 6:00 p.m.

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Older Drivers

By Anita P. Holmes, JD, MPH,
Executive Director

Almost any adult with a driver's license can remember that first trip alone in the family car, feeling completely free and independent. Those same emotions complicate the decision faced daily by many older Americans. They must decide whether to keep driving or give up their car.



Dr. Anita
Holmes

Maybe driving is not fun any more. Some people may not drive at night because they have trouble seeing. Others might avoid driving on interstate highways. For many older drivers, these are the first signs that driving is becoming a problem.

But, driving is necessary for many. Gone are the days when most could walk a few blocks to the grocer or doctor. Getting around is a problem for the millions of older people who live in the suburbs or rural areas. In cities there are plenty of taxis and public transportation like buses and subways. However, buses and subways may be hard for someone suffering from arthritis or using a cane. Taxis may seem to cost too much.

In 1983 one out of every 15 licensed drivers in America was over the age of 70. By 1995 this had risen to one out of every 11 drivers. By 2020 one out of every five Americans will be over 65 years of age, and most of them will probably be licensed to drive.

As a group, older drivers are some of the country's safest drivers. Fewer speed or drive after drinking alcohol than at any other age. However, compared to young and middle-age adults, people over 70 are more likely to be involved in a crash while driving and more likely to die in that crash. There are many reasons for this — some can be changed, but others cannot.

How Does Age Affect Driving?

As we grow older, we do not turn into bad drivers. Some of us stay good drivers. Others simply have changes in their ability to handle a car safely. These include:

- Changes in our bodies
- Changes in the way we think
- Health problems
- Medications

Changes in your bodies — As you age, your joints may stiffen, and muscles weaken. Turning your head to look back or steering and braking the car may become hard to do. Movements are slower and may not be as accurate. Your sens-

es of smell, hearing, sight, touch, and taste might grow weaker.

Vision, being able to see, is a vital part of driving, but age brings changes in the lens of the eye. Eyes need more light in order to see and are more sensitive to glare. Your ability to see things on the edge of the viewing area, peripheral vision, narrows. Vision problems include cataracts, macular degeneration, and glaucoma.

In cataracts the lens of the eye becomes cloudy, causing problems with the ability to see.

Macular degeneration is a breakdown of material inside the eye that leads to a loss of vision in the central part of the viewing area.

The rise in pressure inside the eye that develops in glaucoma may limit the ability to see things on the edge of the viewing area.

Changes in the way you think — You probably know your body may change with age. You may not be aware of changes in the way your mind works as you age. Some of you find your reflexes are slower. Or, you may have trouble keeping your attention fixed on one situation. You may have a hard time doing two things at once — something you have to do to drive safely. When you drive, you have to take in new information from many sources and then react. Some of you react more slowly when you find yourself in a new situation.

These are all normal changes in how your brain works as you age. There are, however, two forms of mental problems that can also affect your ability to drive.

Depression, being "down in the dumps" for a long time, may happen to many older people, but it is not normal. It can, and should, be treated. The attention and sleep problems depressed people of any age sometimes suffer can interfere with safe driving. So can the medicine sometimes used to treat depression.

Dementia causes serious memory, personality, and behavioral problems that the person can not recognize. Someone with dementia may at first remember how to operate an automobile and how to travel to familiar places. However, at some point as the disease progresses, their driving abilities do become impaired. Unfortunately, people with dementia often cannot recognize when they should no longer drive.

Health problems — Other illnesses common among older people can affect your ability to drive safely. For example, having arthritis, Parkinson's disease, or stroke, makes it harder to handle a car safely. Sleep problems or fainting make you less alert at an age when you may already have a hard time focusing your attention. If you have an automatic defibrillator or pacemaker, your doctor might suggest that you stop driving. There is a

chance that the device might cause an irregular heartbeat or dizziness while driving. Diabetes may cause nerve damage in your hands, legs, or eyes. The eye damage in diabetes is known as diabetic retinopathy. If you also have trouble controlling your blood sugar level and might be in danger of losing consciousness, you should think about giving up your license.

Medications — Older Americans take more prescription medicines than any other age group. They often have one or more long-term illnesses such as arthritis, diabetes, high blood pressure, and heart disease and may be taking several different drugs. Their bodies may be more sensitive to the effects of medicine on their central nervous systems. The older body may not use up a drug quickly as a younger body does, so the drug can be active in them for a longer time. Sometimes a combination of medicines increases the effects of each drug on the body.

Several types of medication can make driving harder because they affect the central nervous system. Drugs that might interfere with your driving include sleep aids, medicine to treat depression, antihistamines for allergies and colds, strong pain-killers, and diabetes medications. If you are taking one or more of them, talk to your doctor. Perhaps he or she could change your prescription, or help you decide if the medicine is affecting your driving.

Can I Be a Better Driver?

Perhaps you already know some driving situations that are hard — night, highways, rush hour, and bad weather. You might avoid these types of driving and limit your trips to shopping and visits to the doctor. This lowers your chance of having an accident.

While driving, older drivers are most at risk while yielding right of way, turning, especially left turns, lane changing, passing, and using expressway ramps. Pay extra attention at those times. If there is not a left-turn light, look for alternate routes that do provide such lights.

Most of the advice for older drivers is helpful for all drivers. Plan your trips ahead of time. Stick to streets you know. Don't drive under stress. Keep distractions such as the fan, radio, or talking, to a minimum. Leave a big space between your car and the one in front of you. Don't drive when you are tired.

Think about taking a driver refresher class. Some car insurance companies reduce your payment if you pass such a class. The AARP (American Association of Retired Persons) sponsors the "55 ALIVE/Driver Safety Program". Call 1-888-227-7669 (1-888-AARP NOW) for details about courses in your area. The AAA (American Automobile Association) has a similar class called "Safe Driving for Mature Operators".

Contact your local AAA's office for class information. These are 8-hour classroom courses that talk about the aging process and help drivers adjust. You might also check with a local private driving school. Ask if they have an instructor who teaches older drivers. You might want to take such a review every few years.

Certain features on your car can make driving easier. Power steering, power brakes, automatic transmission, and larger mirrors are all helpful. Keeping the headlights on at all times and having a light-colored car helps other drivers see you. Hand controls for the accelerator and brakes might be of use to someone with leg problems. Keep the headlights clean and aligned, and check the windshield wiper blades often. A rear-window defroster is a good way to keep that window clear at all times.

Air bags have saved many lives. Advanced age is not a reason for disconnecting an air bag. However, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration suggests that air bags may not be as effective in preventing serious injury or death in people over 70 years of age as they are in younger people. Older people are more likely to be injured in a traffic accident. Their bones and blood vessels may be rigid. They might break easily. If the accident is minor, emergency personnel may not realize the possibility of internal bleeding in time. People of any age should push their seats as far back as possible from the air bags in both the steering wheel and the passenger side. Of course, everyone in the car should always wear their seat belts.

Should I Stop Driving?

What if you are doing all you can to be a safe driver and still wonder if you should stop driving. This is a difficult decision. There are questions to ask yourself. Do other drivers often honk at you? Have you had some accidents, even "fender benders"? Are you getting lost, even on well-known roads? Do cars or pedestrians seem to appear out of nowhere? Have family, friends, or your doctor said they worried about your driving? Do you drive less because you are not as confident about your ability as you once were? If you answered yes to any of these, you probably should think seriously about whether or not you are still a safe driver.

There are resources that may help you make this decision. Single copies of the AARP guide, "The Older Driver Skill Assessment and Resource Guide: Creating Mobility Choices", are available free by writing AARP Fulfillment, 601 E Street, NW, Washington, DC 20049, and asking for publication D14957. The AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety has several free books, including "Drivers 55-Plus: Test Your Own Performance", that may be

DRIVING, Cont'd on page 22

Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc. 42nd Annual Session

Dr. M.L. Jemison, President • Dr. Tyrone S. Pitts, General Secretary

Submitted by Dr. Archie D. Logan, Jr.
Executive Secretary-Treasurer



Dr. Archie
Logan, Jr.

First Mt. Zion Baptist Church

The follow-
ing is the
convention
schedule:

Monday, August 4, 2003

8:00 AM –
Laymen
Street
Ministry,
First Mt. Zion Baptist Church

8:00 AM – 5:00 PM –
Registration,
Charlotte Convention Center

8:00 – 9:30 AM –
Committees, Boards, and
Department Meetings

9:00 AM – 2:00 PM –
Continuous Evangelistic Services

9:00 AM – 7:00 PM –
Seminar Development Program

11:00 AM – PNBC, Inc.
Executive Committee Meeting
(Closed Session)

12:30 PM –
Congress Faculty Meeting

3:00 – 6:00 PM – PNBC, Inc.
Executive Board Meeting (Open
Session)

7:30 PM – Opening Night
Welcome Program –
Evangelism Crusade
Presiding Bishop Gilbert F.
Patterson, COGIC, Speaker

TUESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2003

7:00 AM – Convention at Worship,
Charlotte Convention Center

7:30 – 10:00 AM –
Congress in Training

8:00 AM – 5:00 PM –
Registration, Charlotte Convention
Center

10:15 AM – Opening of
Convention, Charlotte Convention
Center

11:00 AM – Congress Program,
Dr. Frank Hardy, Preaching

2:00 – 4:00 PM –
Departments in Session

2:30 – 4:00 PM – New
Pastors/New Churches Orientation

4:30 – 5:30 PM – State Caucus
Meetings

7:00 AM – Convention at Worship,
Charlotte Convention Center

7:30 – 10:45 AM –
Convention in Training

9:00 AM – 5:00 PM –
Registration, Charlotte Convention
Center

10:45 AM – Convention in
Session, Charlotte Convention
Center
Nannie Helen Burroughs School

12:00 Noon – Gardner C. Taylor
Hour, Charlotte Convention Center
Sermon: Dr. Gardner C. Taylor

7:00 AM – Convention at Worship,
Charlotte Convention Center

7:30 AM – 10:45 PM –
Convention in Training

9:00 AM – 5:00 PM –
Registration,
Charlotte Convention Center

10:45 AM – Convention in
Session, Charlotte Convention
Center

11:30 AM – Election of Officers,
Charlotte Convention Center

12:00 Noon – Sermon, Charlotte
Convention Center

2:00 – 4:00 PM –
Departments in Session

7:30 PM – President's Night,
Charlotte Convention Center
Dr. M. L. Jemison, Speaker

FRIDAY, AUGUST 8, 2003

7:00 AM – Convention at Worship,
Charlotte Convention Center

7:30 – 8:30 AM – Convention in
Training

9:00 AM – Congress of Christian
Education, Charlotte Convention
Center
Commencement Program

10:30 AM – Convention in
Session, Charlotte Convention
Center

11:15 AM – Closing Sermon,
Charlotte Convention Center

2:00 PM – Ministers' Seminar,
Charlotte Convention Center

7:30 PM – Freedom Night,
Charlotte Convention Center
Dr. Marian Wright Edelman,
Award Recipient
Mr. Vernon Jordan, Speaker

PROGRESSIVE NATIONAL BAPTIST CONVENTION, INC.

42nd ANNUAL SESSION

Charlotte, NC

AUGUST 3 - 8, 2003

Host Church:

Mayfield Memorial Baptist Church

Host Pastor:

Dr. Harold Diggs

7:00 PM – President's Educational
Awards Banquet
The Honorable William Gray, III,
Speaker

10:00 PM – Regional Caucus
Meetings

Late Night Preaching

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6, 2003

6:45 AM – Chaplains/New Pastors
Breakfast

2:00 – 4:00 PM –
Departments in Session

7:30 PM – Missions Ministry
Night, Charlotte Convention
Center

Dr. J. Alfred Smith, Sr. (CA),
Speaker
Late Night Preaching

THURSDAY, AUGUST 7, 2003

6:45 AM – State President's
Breakfast

Reaching the Masses Through Effective Evangelism

By Darryl Todd
Youth Division Chairperson
Evangelism Ministry GBSC

Romans 10:13: "For whosoever

shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." This is our cry, this is our plea to get people to call upon the name of the Lord with hopes that they will be saved.



Rev. Darryl Todd

We must raise the question, how can we get people to call upon the name of the Lord? First we pray, then we study, and then we apply. In other words, we must teach those that are saved how to help those that are not.

Our desires for the Youth Division are to help other youth become effective evangelists for the Kingdom of God. We hope to get the pen writing and the ball rolling this summer in Winston-Salem at our first annual:

"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Romans 10:13

YOUTH EVANGELISM CONFERENCE

It will be held at the Phillips Chapel Baptist Church. Reverend LaMont J. Johnson is pastor. We will have several activities going on during the course of the week. We will have nightly lectures and sermons, and Saturday we will put what we have learned to practice.

The presenters for the conference will be Youth Division Vice Chairperson, **Reverend LaMont J. Johnson**, Phillips Chapel Missionary Baptist Church; Recording Secretary/Vice Chairperson Program Committee, **Reverend Anthonette**

Wright, Gethsemane Missionary Baptist Church; Music Ministry Youth Division, **Reverend Letari Thompson**, First Baptist Charity and Youth Division Chairperson, **Reverend Darryl Todd**, St. John Missionary Baptist Church. We encourage you to bring your youth, and to announce that the Kingdom of God is at hand. In closing, our motto: **Tell One, Bring One!**



Rev. LaMont J. Johnson,
Youth Division
Vice Chairperson



GBSC EVANGELISM YOUTH CONFERENCE

Dr. Robert E. Lee McGowens, Evangelism Chairman

JULY 31 - AUGUST 1, 2003

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Winston-Salem, NC 27105
Reverend Lamont Johnson

HOTEL

Ramada Plaza

3050 University Parkway
Winston-Salem, NC 27105

336-723-2911

Rooms: \$62.00 + 13% Tax

You are invited!

EVANGELISM OUTREACH

August 2, 2003 • 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Preaching • Singing • Food

• Free Health Clinic •

Free transportation at homeless shelters checkpoints

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- 575 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr.

Winston-Salem, NC 27101

Phone: 336-724-3857 Fax: 724-3812

Email: gmbchurch@bellsouth.net

*Everyone is invited to attend, so mark your calendars!
For more information call the church office 724-3857.*

The General Baptist Convention now accepts MASTERCARD or VISA

www.gbsc.org Call for more information: 800-639-GBSC



Our Work Is Done But Never Forgotten

By Earl Horton
GBSC Adoption and Foster Care
Ministry
Public Relations Director



Earl
Horton

Everything that is good must come to an end.

If you have not read the last issue of the Baptist Informer article by Dr. Dorothy Demby-Paige, Project Director of the GBSC Adoption and Foster Care Ministry, the Ministry will no longer be

operating effective June 30th according to the NC Department of Health and Human Services. Due to our extraordinary work in recruiting singles and families to consider adopting or fostering African American children currently in the state child welfare system, we have created a backlog of families interested in adoption and foster care.

It is with a great deal of ambivalence that our program will no longer be a part of the African American faith community, especially considering the fact that over 50% of the North Carolina children in out of home placement are children of color; however, it is with a great deal of pride that the General Baptist State Convention of NC, Inc. has been able to accomplish what no other agency has been able to claim – a backlog of African American families waiting to adopt or foster children.

You might ask how we, the GBSC Adoption and Foster Care Ministry created such awareness? We appeared on television, in newspapers, and on radio all over North Carolina. The ministry made presentations at state and national conferences to social workers, adoptive and foster families. We promoted adoption and foster care in your churches and made such a positive impact in recruiting interested families. Our program created awareness and a forum that allowed families interested in adoption or foster care of children to address issues they have encountered with social services as potential adoptive and foster care parents wishing to go through the process.

We recruited many church volunteers who gave their time to assist in the recruitment of families. Mrs. Sherbia

Jones of Hickory serves as Western Region Coordinator. She is very special to the ministry because of her love for the children in foster care. Being a foster care parent she has impacted the lives of many children that she personally cared for. Even though she is not an active foster care parent now, she still carries the passion for advocating on the behalf of children. She is active with Catawba Social Services with regards to children's issues. Mrs. Jones is very active in recruiting singles and families from her church and community. She personally made sure that the families participated in their MAPP training courses. She would make sure that their adoption and foster care process did not have any barriers. If there were any barriers, she would step in to help handle the problem. I personally would like to thank her for her work over the years.

Special thanks must be given to a wonderful woman and that is none other than Dr. Dorothy Demby-Paige, our Project Director. She has done a

tremendous job since the passing of the late Reverend Dr. Joseph C. Paige who was the visionary for the GBSC Adoption and Foster Care Ministry. She made the decision to carry on his work of making the difference in the lives of children in North Carolina. She has endured the pressure of the great responsibility of being Project Director. She endured a lot of pressure from the state concerning our program. Without "Ms. Dorothy" this program may have terminated sooner. She really poured her energy and soul into the program.

Also, I would not want to forget Reverend Anthonette Wright, Church Relations Director of the ministry. She traveled on I-85 and I-40 to speak with congregations across the state at your churches and recruited families for adoption and foster care. She has put a lot of miles on her automobile but worth the sacrifice to bridge the gap to permanency for children and potential families. Special thanks goes out to her for her dedication and hard work.

I cannot forget about the Pastors

who have allowed the ministry to make presentations at your churches about adoption and foster care. There are so many Pastors who we could thank that we may forget those unintentionally if an attempt is made to list them all. So to all of those Pastors who supported our ministry, we thank you.

The GBSC Adoption and Foster Care Ministry/Bridges was the perfect model for churches to become involved and advocate for African American children.

We urge churches to not let our work of the ministry go in vain. We ask that every church of the GBSC, Inc. continue recruiting families from your congregation to open their homes and hearts to children in need of a family to care for them.

I thank you all for reading my articles for the past year and a half. Thank you for your responses and feedback concerning adoption and foster care.

I wish you well. Please do not let our work go in vain. Recruit Families!

DRIVING, Cont'd from page 19

viewed and ordered on their Web site. The Hartford Company offers "At The Crossroads: A Guide to Alzheimer's Disease, Dementia & Driving". See Resources at the end of this article for the telephone numbers and addresses.

There are currently no upper age limits for driving. Because people age at different rates, it is not possible to choose one age as the limit. Setting an age limit would leave some drivers on the road too long, while others would be stopped too soon. Heredity, general health, your way of life, and surroundings all influence how you age.

The hard question is whether older drivers should be tested differently and more often. A second question is what would those tests be. The usual road and written tests do not look at the problem areas for older drivers. The useful-field-of-view test is being studied as one possibility. This looks at the amount of viewing area in which someone can absorb information from two different sources and how quickly they respond to it. This area becomes smaller as we age. The smaller the area, the more likely one is to crash. Fortunately, this is a problem that can be improved by training. A doctor who could then certify the driver to the Department of Motor Vehicles would best perform this test.

The Mini Mental Status Exam is also a possible test used to decide if a person is no longer able to drive. This test looks at

your ability to perform certain mental tasks. These tasks test those mental skills involved in driving, although they might seem different. You might be asked to copy a particular design or to count backwards from 100 by sevens. Like the useful-field-of-view test, this is not now used for testing drivers.

The aim of these tests is not to get every older driver off the road. Instead, if problem drivers can be identified, some of them could then receive training to improve their driving skills. Unfortunately, others cannot be helped by training and will have to stop driving.

How Will I Get Around?

When planning for retirement, you should think about how you'd get around if you were no longer able to drive. Some communities provide low-cost bus or taxi service for older people. Some offer car-pools or transportation on request. Religious groups sometimes have volunteers who take seniors where they need to go.

If such services are not available in your community, taxis may seem too expensive to use often. Remember that you won't have a car to maintain any longer. In fact, the AAA estimates that the cost of owning and running the average car is over \$6,500 a year. By giving up your car, you might have as much as \$125 a week that could be used for taxis, public transportation, or buying gas for friends and relatives who can drive you places.

You can contact your local Agency on

Aging to learn about transportation services available in your area.

Resources

These organizations have information for older drivers.

Administration on Aging, 330 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20201, (202) 619-7501, <http://www.aoa.gov/>

American Association of Retired Persons, 601 E Street, NW, Washington, DC 20049, (202) 434-2277 or 1-800-424-3410, <http://www.aarp.org>

American Automobile Association, 1000 AAA Drive, Heathrow, FL 32746, (407) 444-7000, <http://www.aaa.com/>

AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, 1440 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 201, Washington, DC 20005, (202) 638-5944, <http://www.aaafoundation.org/>

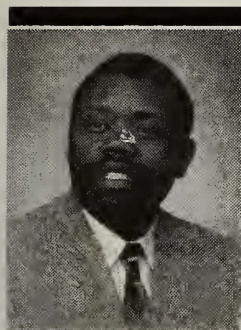
Eldercare Locator: 1-800-677-1116, <http://www.eldercare.gov/>

The National Institute on Aging (NIA) offers free information on health and aging. For a list of publications contact: **NIA Information Center**, PO Box 8057, Gaithersburg, MD 20898-8057, 1-800-222-2225 or 1-800-222-4225 (TTY), <http://www.nia.nih.gov/>

The booklet *At The Crossroads: A Guide to Alzheimer's Disease, Dementia & Driving* is available in English and Spanish. For a free copy write or call: The Hartford, 200 Executive Boulevard, Southington, CT 06489, (860) 547-5000, <http://www.thehartford.com/alzheimers/>

Thought For The Month: *Great Moments*

By Reverend Ricky L. Banks



Rev. Ricky Banks

It was Thackeray who said that great moments of life are but moments like others; that doom is spoken in a word or two; a single look from the eyes, or a mere pressure of the hand may decide misfortune. A little word uttered by a maid was the means of Naaman's cure. She said to her mistress, Would God my Lord were the prophet that is in Samaria! for he would recover him of his leprosy. Naaman went to Elisha, a man of God, and was cleansed.

A mere handful of meal and a few drops of oil kept the prophet Elijah and two others alive for many days. A widow and her son had planned to eat this remnant of food alone. But Elijah called upon the Lord, and the handful of meal became plentiful, nor did the cruse

fail for many days.

Even so are our lives made up of minutes and hours of little deeds. But when these have been blessed by Christ, each one of them takes on new meaning and special importance. The little, everyday things in life – all are a part of God's Master Plan for us. Each moment counts when spent for Christ.

I am happy to report that our Children's home is doing fine. We still need and ask for your prayers and support. We would like to again thank all the persons who call with your interests and concerns for our Children's Home, and the pastors and churches who continue to give your support. We are still at work on the full accreditation process for the Home, and working with mental health to better serve our children. The Home is in need of two mini-vans and a pick-up truck.

Prayer: O Father, help me to live each moment of this day so that it may have its rightful place in thy wonderful plan. Take my moments and my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Please call us at 252-335-5003 or 252-339-3438.

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or call Studio, 919-757-1023 Home 919-757-1135 - Ya'll Come!



Join the Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention and the Central Children's Home of North Carolina as they fellowship together in the

Fourth Bi-Annual Central Children's Home Day

Saturday, August 16, 2003 • 10 am to 3 pm

on the campus of the Central Children's Home

211 West Antioch Drive, Oxford, North Carolina 27565

(919) 693-7617 or (919) 693-1213

"Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord..." Psalm 127:3

Testimonials • Choir • Speaker • Food • Campus Tour • Games

Mr. Michael Alston, Director Central Children's Home

Mrs. Julias McDonald, President WBH & FMC

Dr. Priscilla A. Brodie, Executive Secretary-Treasurer

GROUP REGISTRATION FORM

Fourth Bi-Annual Central Children's Home Day

August 16, 2003

Name of Group/Organization _____

Number Attending: Adults _____ + Youth _____ = Total _____

Time of Arrival _____

Contact Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Please return Group Registration Form by JULY 21, 2003 to:

Woman's Baptist State Convention

P.O. Box 1818 • Raleigh, NC 27602

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Simply fill out the form below and mail, a representative of AIL will deliver your discount card and explain its use, plus explain our New Family Dental Plan which is available to your entire family for \$29.95 per year! The dental plan and supplement health and life benefits are being made available for your consideration. You are under no obligation.

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City _____ State _____ Zip _____

County _____

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AIL, P.O. BOX 18825, RALEIGH, NC 27619-8825

66th Annual Church Leadership Conference

Please notice that the dates of this conference has changed from what is referred to in the General Baptist State convention calendar. This year's conference will prove to be a blessing in many ways. This is an opportunity for the entire church. The church needs to lead now, more than ever before. All too often the church has been the tail-light following the changes of society instead of the headlight leading men and women to a higher level of spirituality and purpose.

Several workshops are offered in hopes of enhancing the church. We suggest that members/disciples from throughout the entire church attend this conference and take advantage of these workshops. There will be something for all phases of church ministry. We believe that this conference will prove to be another great conference to the glory of God. Don't forget early registration will help us in planning a more effective conference and serve your needs on a greater level. Please remember that early registration ends on **July 11, 2003.**

Registration will start at 8:00 a.m. and will be open for the remainder of the conference. At 9:00 a.m., we will have a plenary session followed by the morning workshops. Certificates of participation will be given at the end of these workshops.

Conference Schedule:

8:00 am through the remainder of the conference - Registration
9:00 am to 9:30 am - Opening Session
9:30 am to 12:00 - Morning Workshops
12:00 am to 1:30 pm - Lunch
1:30 pm to 4:00 pm - Afternoon Workshops

July 26, 2003

Each participant may choose 2 workshops,

one workshop in the morning and one after lunch. Certificates of presentation will be given at the end of each workshop.

Workshops and Presenters

The Black Church Experience: Then and Now

Dr. James Arthur Holmes, Assistant Professor of Church History
BA - Allen University
MDiv - Interdenominational Theological Center
STM - Boston University School of Theology
ThD - Boston University School of Theology

Training Up or Selling Out Our Youth

Dr. Michael Broadway, Assistant Professor of Ethics and Theology
BA - Baylor University
MDiv - Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary
PhD - Duke University

HIV/AIDS and the Church

Dr. Linda W. Bryan
BA - Shaw University
MDiv - Duke University Divinity School
DMin - Virginia Union School of Theology

Visionary Church Leadership

Dr. J. T. Robertson, Jr.
BS - Millsap's College
MS - NY University
MDiv - NY Theological Seminary
PhD - Fordham University

Health and Health Issues in the African American Church

Dr. Moses Goldmon
BS - University of Arkansas
MS - Iowa State University
PhD - The University of Tennessee

Spirituality and Healing

Dr. Harold Nichols

BS - NC A&T State University
MDiv - Shaw University Divinity School
MD - UNC

Interpreting Difficult Passages in The Old Testament

Dr. James Ashmore, Assistant Professor of Old Testament
BA - Davidson College
MDiv - Union Theological Seminary
PhD - Duke University

Church Music

Dr. James Abbington, Associate Professor of Music
BA - Morehouse College
MM - University of Michigan in Ann Arbor
DMA - University of Michigan in Ann Arbor

Domestic Violence

Rev. Rosalind Polston, Assistant to Pastor, Macedonia UCC
BA - Antioch University
MA - Bowie State University
MDiv - Shaw University Divinity School

Involving Our Youth in the Church

Rev. Reggie High, Pastor Beavers Chapel UCC
BS - North Carolina State University
MDiv - Shaw University Divinity School

Min. Robert L. Jones, Jr., Associate in Ministry, Juniper Level Baptist Church
AS - Park University
BS - Park University
MS - Central Michigan University ■

Shaw University Divinity School

66th Annual Church Leadership Conference

Theme: *Preparing Leaders for our Changing Times*

July 26, 2003

Shaw University Divinity School • Raleigh, NC 27610
The Leonard Building

Dr. Clarence G. Newsome, President

Dr. James T. Roberson, Jr., Dean

Dr. Rudolph Tripp, Director of Continuing Education

"Strides to Excellence: Only The Best!"

Conference Registration: Please complete this Registration Form including your workshop selections and return to Shaw University Divinity School by **July 11, 2003** with your registration fee. Please complete a registration form for each individual attending the conference. Copies of this form can be made as required.

Title _____ Name _____

Home Address _____

Phone _____

Email (for acknowledgement of registration) _____

Church _____

Workshop Choices:

Morning Workshop _____

Afternoon _____

Quantity / Unit	Price	Total
_____ Early Registration Fee	\$50.00	_____
_____ On-Site Registration Fee	\$60.00	_____
Conference Fees Subtotal		_____



SAVE THE DATE!

The Shaw University Divinity School has scheduled the following upcoming Conferences:

- **Non-Traditional Theological Conference** July 10-12, 2003
- **Church Leadership Conference** July 26, 2003
- **Women's Conference** August 9, 2003

★All Pastors, Ministers, Deacons, Trustees and Laity would benefit from these conferences.

Dr. Shaw Designated President Emeritus

Dr. Talbert O. Shaw, former President of Shaw University, was officially given the designation of President Emeritus during the University's Commencement



Dr. Leonzo Lynch

Ceremony on May 10th. Dr. Shaw was named President of Shaw University in 1987 and served in that capacity for more than 15 years.

Dr. Shaw asked his wife Marlene to stand, as he expressed to the

audience how pleased he was to receive such a distinguished honor. "I'm going to ask my wife to stand She's also President Emeritus. I would like to say to you very shortly that my best years of service were at Shaw [University].... This is the capstone of a life of service Wherever I go Shaw University is involved. I want to applaud each of you because everybody contributed to this moment."

Dr. Shaw has served for more than 30 years in higher education, creating, advocating, and directing innovative programs to prepare future leaders to value commitment to individual and social responsibility. He arrived at Shaw University during a critical time, when the school was on the verge of closing its doors, and he led the university on a steady uphill climb. During Dr. Shaw's tenure, the University's endowment grew from nearly zero to \$12 million and student enrollment nearly doubled to more than 2,500. Dr. Shaw provided leadership that inspired a renaissance in the University's life and its impact on the larger community.

A number of significant programs were implemented at Shaw University during his service as President. Most noteworthy was the establishment of an Ethics and Values Program. In 1993, the University made courses in Ethics and Values central to the general education of all its students in order to emphasize the University's commitment to high personal standards and citizenship in its graduates. Dr. Shaw's commitment to ethics was recognized by The Templeton Guide: Colleges that Encourage Character Development, 2000 edition. The guidebook, which was released nationwide is designed for students, parents, and educators who believe that character matters. President Shaw was cited in the Presidential Leadership category for exercising leadership in character development.

In 1995, Shaw University held a dedication ceremony for The Talbert O. Shaw Living Learning Center on the northeast campus. The completion of the facility marked the first major building initiative to occur at Shaw University in 10 years and the largest single construction project in the University's history.

Dr. Shaw earned his A.B. degree at Andrews College, Michigan, and his M.A. as well as his PhD degrees from the University of Chicago. His dissertation developed an integrative theory of social sciences, philosophy and theology. His years as a professor and administrator have been spent at Howard University in Washington, D.C., Catholic University of America in Washington, Bowie State College in Maryland, Federal City College in Washington, Princeton University in New Jersey, and Morgan State University in Baltimore before coming to Shaw University in November of 1987. He was a University Fellow while at the University of Chicago, is recognized in Who's Who Among Black

Educators, was given the Meritorious Award as a distinguished administrator by the Morgan State University Foundation, and was elected to the Board of Directors for the Council of College of Arts and Sciences. He was also a participant as an academic administrator at the NATO briefings at Brussels, Belgium in 1986 where he was sponsored by the Atlantic Council and the U.S. Department of State.

His publications include theological and philosophical monographs in Message Magazine, Spectrum, The Journal of Religious Studies and the Morgan State Magazine. He co-authored the book: The Regan Caribbean Basin Initiative. Dr. Shaw is currently a member of the Board of Directors for First

Citizens Bank (Raleigh), the American Academy of Religion, and the American Society of Christian Ethics. During his tenure at Shaw University he was a member of the American Association of Higher Education, the American Council on Education, the Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce, the Advisory Board of the Raleigh Convention and Visitors Bureau, the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (NAFEO), the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA), the Wake County United Way Board of Directors, and the Atlantic Council.

President Shaw is married to the former Marlene Wise. They reside in Boca Raton, FL.

Shaw's Divinity School to Review Theological Training

The Shaw University Divinity School will host a theological education research project that presents a critical review of the teaching methods used to prepare men and women for service and leadership in the African American Church and Community. This conference is funded by a grant for nearly \$70,000 from the Wabash Center entitled: *Pedagogy for Non-Traditional Theological Education in Historically Black Seminaries*. The conference will be held on Thursday, July 10th through Saturday, July 12th from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. in Leonard Hall on the campus of Shaw University.

The goal of the conference is to collaborate with scholars from Historically Black Colleges and University (HBCU) seminaries to:

* *examine current pedagogy to help clergy and laity translate the language, concepts and issues in academia into the language, concepts and issues pertinent to the edification and liberation in the African American Community at large.*

Two scholars from each of the six Association of Theological Schools (ATS) accredited HBCU seminaries will participate in the conference. In addition to Shaw University, other participating seminaries include Hood Theological Seminary, Howard University School of

Divinity, The Interdenominational Theological Center, Payne Theological Seminary, and the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology of Virginia Union University. These seminaries will read, reflect and react to a working paper with colleagues at their respective schools. Scholars may respond to the paper or develop an independent working paper relative to the teaching and learning of HBCU theological education. Each school's position will be the basis for discourse.

In the afternoon plenary lectures will be followed by small group breakout sessions to discuss the gist of the scholarly dialogues. They will consist of HBCU scholars, students from area seminaries, undergraduate students currently enrolled in HBCUs, and pastors from various denominations.

This event is free and open to the public. Contact person for Shaw's Divinity School to Review Theological Training for Church and Community Leadership is Rev. Lilipiana Daresburg, M.Div., Administrative Assistant to the Dean, Shaw University Divinity School, 118 East South Street, P. O. Box 2090, Raleigh, NC 27602, phone (919) 546-8569, (919) 546-8654, or fax (919) 546-8571.

HIV/AIDS Project Refunded

By Linda W. Bryan, Assistant Dean

The State Department of Health and Human Resources, HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care Branch has approved the continuation application submitted by Shaw University Divinity School to continue the HIV/AIDS prevention project. The project will enter its fourth year of funding beginning July 1, 2003 and ending June 30, 2004.

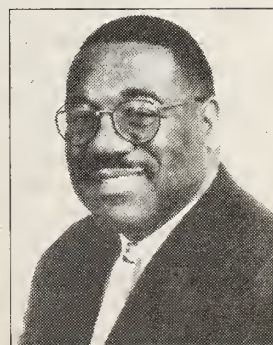
Shaw University Divinity School has produced the PETRA Model, a faith-based response to HIV/STD prevention for the purpose of training, raising awareness, and facilitating discussions in the church and other faith-based organiza-

tions regarding HIV/AIDS issues. The PETRA Model (Prevention, Education, Training, Research, and Awareness) is a curriculum consisting of five theological components: (1) Old Testament, (2) New Testament, (3) Theology, (4) Church History, (5) Pastoral Care and Counseling. Supplemental lessons and activities suitable for seminars or mini workshops are included as a part of the curriculum. The curriculum can be implemented as is or it can be a resource for adaptation to a particular context.

Shaw University Divinity School is pleased to continue its relationship with the State of North Carolina to join forces in the war against AIDS.

Congratulations Pastor James L. Smith

Pastor James L. Smith received his Master of Divinity from Gardner Webb University during the Spring Commencement ceremony on May 10, 2003. He has served as Pastor of the historic Palmer Grove



Pastor James L. Smith

Baptist Church in Kingstown, N.C. for twenty three years. His wife of 28 years is the former Hazelene Terrill.

Pastor Smith also serves on the evangelism committee of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

Shaw University President, Dr. Clarence G. Newsome, has named Mr. Martel Anse' Perry to the position of Executive Vice President for Institutional Affairs and Administration, effective immediately. In this position, Mr. Perry, who is a native of Hampton, VA, will oversee the areas of institutional advancement, strategic planning, sponsored programs, institutional computing, distance learning as it relates to technology and related resources, broadcast services, business services, and administration. In addition, he will advise the President of fiscal affairs matters, including investments, internal audits and compliance. "Mr. Perry has a wealth of experience in technology, fundraising, and business management. His proven track record of expertise in organizational infrastructure development, marketing assessment and research, operations and cash management, and internal auditing will definitely be an asset to Shaw University as we build a New Shaw for a New Millennium," said President Newsome. Mr. Perry has provided management services to government, private, and non-profit organizations. His experience and expertise includes insurances, banking, accounting, information systems training, technology development, life cycle management, procurement, technology enterprise operations, video conferencing, educational training, and program development.

Prior to his appointment at Shaw University, Mr. Perry served for more than 10 years (1992-2003) as the

Perry Named Executive Vice President

Executive Director of Howard University's School of Divinity's International Faith Community Information and Services Clearinghouse and Training Center. In that position, he provided direction, strategic planning, and overall leadership for the Howard University School of Divinity (HUSD)' outreach programs, technology, research, production units, continuing education, distance learning, grants, security, and community relations. Mr. Perry also served as an accounting and budget consultant and advisor for the HUSD, representing the School in three major audits. He also assisted the Dean of the HUSD, now Shaw University President, Dr. Clarence G. Newsome, in operational planning, strategic planning, fundraising, grant management, budgeting, and institutional affairs.

During his tenure with HUSD, Mr. Perry was responsible for assisting with the acquisition of \$5 million through various private grants. These funds were very critical for the School because the HUSD does not receive federal funding and supports itself primarily through private fundraising. Mr. Perry was also instrumental in securing more than \$1 million in equipment and services from the Hughes Network Systems for the HUSD distance-learning program. Additionally, during his tenure at HUSD Mr. Perry and his wife, Reverend Dr. Irene E. Gilbert-Perry, contributed more than \$500,000 in

computer software, equipment and support services to the HUSD. The contribution included Internet network wiring, video conferencing equipment, T-1 lines, and broadcast equipment. Mr. Perry also designed and installed a broadcast educational studio at HUSD.

Mr. Perry has also worked as the Computer System Chief Engineer for the State of Virginia where he was responsible for managing information resources that supported and distributed centralized computing throughout the State of Virginia. In addition, he oversaw the State's Universities and Junior Colleges information system requirements, operations, procurements, and designs. Mr. Perry's background also includes employment as a civilian worker for the Navy and a member of the Air Force for more than 14 years. His work with the Air Force spanned more than 10 years, having served in several managerial positions, including Programming Supervisor, Engineering Analyst Supervisor, Avionics Analysis Supervisor, Management, and Maintenance Analysis. Some of his responsibilities in those positions included developing onboard diagnostic software programs, coordinating the base level computer system operations, and the design and development of software program implementation at three Air Force major installations. During his government employment he served on the executive staff of five generals and two admirals. Mr. Perry has also provided executive management services to the Department of Justice, National Institute for Standards and Technology, US Naval Supply Command, US Navy Naval System Command, US Department of Commerce, Saudi Arabia, Minister of Defense, and Barclays Bank International.

Mr. Perry completed his undergraduate degree at Delaware State College where he received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration with

an emphasis in accounting and economics. In addition, he has two Professional Certificates from the City College of Chicago in Management and Real Estate Management. He also has three Masters Professional Certificates from the Air Force Management Technical Schools in Structural Engineering Analysis, Avionics Engineering Analysis, and Management Analysis.

Mr. Perry is the son of the late Professor Isaiah Boyd Perry, formerly the Chair of the Department of Mechanical Technology, Hampton University and Dr. Vera E. Perry, Retired Professor from Norfolk State University. His wife, Rev. Dr. Gilbert-Perry, is Assistant to the Pastor for Outreach at First Baptist Church of Hampton, Virginia.

Some of Perry's awards and honors include: Who's Who in Computer Science in 1991; Co-Chairman of the National Computer and Telecommunications Advisory Committee for the Federal Government 1989-91; Naval Supply Systems Command Inspector General Superior Performance Award in 1984; Outstanding Naval Inspector General Commendation in 1985; Outstanding Citizen Award of Hampton, VA in 1983; and Air Force Commendation medal for Outstanding Programming and System Design from 1974-1978. His professional accomplishments have been featured in noteworthy periodicals and publications including the Washington Post, Virginian Pilot, Black Engineering Magazine, Converge Magazine, Microsoft Canadian Higher Educational Website News Brief, The Augusta Chronicle at Augusta Online, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency - FEMA Magazine.

Shaw University, founded in 1865, is the oldest historically Black institution of higher learning in the South. The University is under the leadership of Dr. Clarence G. Newsome. President Newsome's leadership pursues the theme: "Strides to Excellence: Only the Best!"

Shaw University Graduates 290 Students

Shaw University bid farewell to 290 students as they received their Bachelor's, Master's, and Associate degrees during the University's Spring Commencement Ceremony on Saturday, May 10th at the Raleigh Conference and Convention Center. This brings the total number of Shaw University graduates for the 2002-2003 Academic Year to 417. U.S. Congressman Bob Etheridge was the commencement speaker for the occasion.

The Spring Commencement Ceremony marked the first Commencement over which President Clarence G. Newsome presided. Dr. Newsome was named Shaw University's 13th President on February 13th.

"Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the 2003 Commencement exercises of Shaw University. This is the day on which we recognize the accomplishments of our students who stand before us now We are indeed pleased that you have come to share in this very special occasion," said President Newsome. Other highlights on Commencement Day included the official designation of Dr. Talbert O. Shaw, former President of

Shaw University, as President Emeritus. Dr. Shaw was named President of Shaw University in 1987 and served the University for more than 15 years.

Shaw University also awarded three Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters Degrees at Saturday's commencement. The honorees were: Stanley Alexander, a retired property management pioneer, who during his career was a licensed real estate and insurance broker, a certified property manager, a land developer, and a mortgage banker; Wilbert Bryant, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Higher Education Programs for the United States Department of Education; and U.S. Congressman Bob Etheridge (D-NC), who serves on the House Agriculture Committee and the House Select Committee on Homeland Security.

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Religious Group Supports Workers Fairness Principles

Submitted by Carol J. Smith,
Managing Editor



Carol J.
Smith

A new statewide committee of the North Carolina Council of Churches is backing some of the state's lowest paid but hardest working public employees.

The Council's Economic

Justice Committee recently signed a resolution to support the Workers Fairness Campaign of UE 150, the North Carolina Public Workers Union. UE 150 is organizing state employees who clean and maintain the state universities, provide city services, and care for some of the state's most vulnerable citizens at state psychiatric and mental retardation centers.

"North Carolina's state and public employees are both providers and recipients of vital state and municipal services," says Saladin Muhammad of UE 150. "Their needs link the issues of

quality jobs and quality service."

"The Workers Fairness Campaign is being launched by UE 150 to help give voice to the needs of North Carolina's state and public employees," Muhammad said.

He explained that the campaign "seeks to educate and mobilize mass support, calling on legislators and administrators of state and local institutions to be accountable to core principles of fairness in all of the decisions they make around the state budget and policies that affect employees and the residents of North Carolina."

Religious and community groups are also signing resolutions to encourage legislators and agency leaders to support the principles which specifically call for safe staffing, fair workloads, wage increases, respect on the job, and an end to racial discrimination at work. At a May 1 Town Hall Meeting with the Legislative Black Caucus in Warsaw, organized by Rep. Larry Bell, one worker at the O'Berry Center, a mental retardation center in Goldsboro, illustrated the lack of safety for residents as budget cuts eliminated necessary staff. She said that 14-patient units sometimes have as few as one employee overseeing them on late-night shifts.

Most of these problems are expected to worsen as the state downsizes its mental hospitals, the hospital employees said. State Rep. Jean Farmer-Butterfield noted that she used to work at O'Berry Center. "Having to watch over 14 individuals by yourself is not doable," she said.

In explaining the committee's vote to back the campaign, Council program associate Barbara Zelter explained, "The biblical tradition and the social principles of almost all major religious denominations support a living wage, fair treatment for workers, and care for the ill and infirm and poor."

"Too often the church stands aside and apart from struggles like those championed by Dr. King and Jesus – regular hard-working people ignored by the powers that be," Zelter said. "We are here to say that the church understands and backs up the workers who do the heavy lifting with our tax dollars. We also have grave concerns about how budget cuts to human services are harming our family members and neighbors who are cared for in state institutions."

The Rev. Dr. Jim Vigen, a committee member who heads the Advocacy Office for the North Carolina Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in

America, added that "Those in the faith community need to stand up and protest against what I call the 'creed of greed' that seems to have affected our society. That is the creed that seems to say, 'every woman and man for her/himself...I got mine, now you work hard and try to get some for yourself!' The problem is, of course, that even very hard working Americans, some working at two or three jobs, still can't make enough to support themselves and their families."

The NC Council of Churches is part of the NC Alliance for Economic Justice, which demonstrated at the General Assembly the day after Memorial Day. They called for a raise in revenues so that the state worker salary and safety issues raised by the Workers Fairness Principles can be addressed.

The North Carolina Council of Churches is a statewide organization representing 15 Christian denominations and committed to the twin goals of ecumenism and social justice. More than 1.5 million North Carolinians are members of congregations under the Council's umbrella.

HINTS AND TIPS

Avoiding Furniture Frauds and Foul Ups

By Attorney General Roy Cooper

North Carolina has long been known for fine furniture. Consumers from across the country visit furniture showrooms in High Point or Hickory or place orders with North Carolina companies. Most furniture dealers operating in our state live up to the industry's world-class reputation. However, there are a few dealers whose shady business practices threaten to give North Carolina furniture a bad name.

Complaints about furniture orders are one of the ten most common complaints my office receives. Last year, 846 consumers complained to us about furniture sales practices. The majority of complaints come from consumers who ordered furniture over the phone or by mail. Often, consumers have received the wrong item of furniture or a damaged or defective item, and some never received their item at all. Many problems stem from furniture companies that close without filling customers' orders. Some complaints arise from out-

and-out scams.

Take the example of Carolina Furniture and its owner, Henry Privette. Carolina Furniture took orders and money from consumers across the country but failed to deliver the goods. My Consumer Protection office heard from more than 400 customers who never received their furniture. A judge has now ordered Mr. Privette to stop collecting payments from consumers until he delivers their furniture as promised, and we hope to be able to secure refunds for those consumers who've already paid Mr. Privette.

We want consumers to order North Carolina furniture, but we want those consumers to get their money's worth when they do. Before you place an order or pay a dime, here are some tips to help you avoid problems:

- **Check out the company.**

Research the retailer before you order by checking with the Better Business Bureau and the Attorney General's office in the state where the retailer is located. You can check out a North Carolina

company by calling my office at (919) 716-6000.

- **Get the details in writing.** Ask for the retailer's return policy and warranty, a delivery date, and the total price including shipping fees, in writing. Review all of this information carefully before buying.

- **Keep track of the delivery date.** If you order by phone or by mail, request an estimated delivery date. If the furniture does not arrive by that time, the Federal Mail Order Rule gives you the right to agree to a new delivery date or to cancel the order for a full refund.

- **Measure carefully.** Remember to measure the spot where a new piece of furniture will go as well as the path to that location. Most retailers will not give you your money back if you can't get your new bed up the stairs or your new couch through the door.

- **Pay by credit card.** To improve your odds of getting a refund if something goes wrong with your order or if the retailer goes out of business, pay by credit card.

- **Don't sign off on damaged goods.** If an item is damaged or defective when it arrives, do not accept delivery or sign off on payment for it. Once the furniture is in your house, the retailer is not required to replace it or give you a refund but can instead try to repair it.

- **Complain if you aren't satisfied.** If you find defects after you've already accepted delivery, send your complaint to the retailer in writing along with copies of contracts, order forms, receipts and a photograph of the damage. If you aren't happy with the company's response or if you think you may be a victim of a scam, let my office know about it.

Attorney General Roy Cooper and his staff are always on the look out for scams that seek to defraud consumers. We are here to be of service when you need us, but through consumer education efforts like these columns we hope to help North Carolinians avoid problems from the start.

Ashley Hagans Is First Black Valedictorian

By Mrs. Marilyn Foster, Rocky Mount

Ashley Nicole Hagans addressed her 314-member senior class on May 29, 2003 (her 18th birthday) at 7:00 p.m. She is Rocky Mount Senior High's first black valedictorian. She is a typical 18-year-old girl who worked hard to make good grades. She graduated with a grade point average of 5.13 on a 4.0 scale. Hagans has excelled in academic, athletic and social activities. She was co-captain of the varsity cheerleading squad, president of the National Honor Society, vice-president of the Key Club



Ashley Nicole Hagans

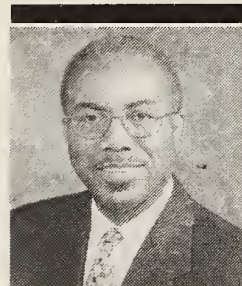
and a member of Youth Leadership of Rocky Mount, an organization sponsored by the Rocky Mount Chamber of Commerce. She was also active in the Art Club, Quiz Bowl and the International Baccalaureate program.

She is the daughter of Anthony and Debra Hagans of Rocky Mount, NC and is a member of Bethlehem Baptist Church where the Reverend Milton V. Batts serves as pastor. Ashley is an active member of the Youth Choir and the Youth Fellowship. She will be attending Howard University in Washington, DC on a full scholarship. She plans to major in computer science. ■

Telling It Like It Is: Don't throw money down the drain

By Dr. James W. Smith

When I was a little boy and spent my money foolishly, my mom would say to me, "You better stop throwing your money down the drain." Even today, I am finding that the statement is very relevant as it relates to many of our congregations.



Dr. James W. Smith

We are throwing our money down the drain when it could be used in supporting our convention objectives.

Let me share this with you. Sometime ago some members of a church called me and informed me that they were very concerned about the direction their church and pastor were going. They advised me that they had left the church and were considering a legal action against the pastor and church. They asked me if I would come over and talk with them regarding what they should and should not do. I thought it was inappropriate to meet with them at their church without the pastor's approval so we met some place else and they shared with me their frustrations. After listening to them, I informed them that they should do whatever it took to solve and work through the problems rather than going to court. Interestingly enough, I told them that going to court would not be in their best interest because in all likelihood, the court was going to send the matter back to the church for them to solve anyway. Unless a criminal action such as an assault by one of the parties or some slanderous or libelous statement was made, then in most cases you would be wasting time and money by going to court. Then I said to

them, "If I were you, I would go back to my church and attempt to find some way to eventually mediate and work through these issues."

Well, guess what, they went back to church hoping to start a dialogue for reconciliation and you would have thought they would have been welcomed. Instead of starting a process of reconciliation and mediation, the pastor states to them from the pulpit words to the effect, "I don't know why you all came back here because you aren't going to run anything here." I later talked with the pastor, told him that I had advised the members to go back to church in hopes of reconciliation rather than proceeding to court. I further shared with the pastor that I would be willing to serve as mediator. The pastor then told me that his association had already moderated the matter and that the vote was in his favor and there was nothing else to discuss with them.

Now since I want to tell it like it is, I understand the pastor's position, but our congregations are a different breed of animals. They don't die quietly. They want answers. They want to discuss matters. And if we are not willing to allow for this process, we will be spending more time and more money in court just to have the judge tell us, "Go back to church and see if you can work it out." I am personally aware of a church spending more than \$25,000.00 in legal fees just to have the judge make the above statement. I am sorry but I just have to tell it like it is, "Don't throw your money down the drain."

If I can be of service to you, please do not hesitate to contact me: Dr. James W. Smith, Chairperson, Legal/Constitution Committee, General Baptist State Convention of NC, Inc., 146 Presidents Drive, Durham, NC 27704, phone (919) 479-0501 or email: Jsmith9450@aol.com ■

Ingold First Baptist Church Annual Women's Day Celebration

Submitted by Sis. Helen Bronson

On Sunday, May 18, members and friends of Ingold First Baptist Church gave tribute to women at their Annual Women's Day celebration. The theme of the day was "Women of Wisdom" taken from Proverbs 9:1-10 and 14:1.

The congregation honored Sis. Annie B. Carlton for her many years of dedicated service to the church. Sis. Carlton was active in the Sunday School where she taught the Beginner's Class, served as the church musician for many years, represented the church at union and association meetings and donated an organ to the church. She also sponsored several members on church outings when they could not do so themselves. Sis. Carlton has worked quietly and diligently for the cause of Christ.

The Honorable Carol A. Jones, District Court Judge of the Fourth Judicial District, gave the Women's

Day address on the topic "Press On, My Sisters, Press On", taken from St. Luke 7:36-50 and St. Mark 5:25-34. The central theme of Judge Jones' address concerned women who were desperate to see Jesus, because of their condition in life and who finally decided that no individual or no situation would keep them from the one person who could fix what was wrong in their lives. Women, and men alike, were challenged to identify those things that block or hinder our progress in coming to Jesus and were encouraged to press on even in the face of these obstacles – for the reward is greater than the obstacles.

After the address, the congregation partook in the Lord's Supper.

It was a glorious day of worship and praise for all who came to partake of what the Lord has in store for His people.

Rev. Jerry L. Johnson serves as pastor of the church. ■

St. Matthews Celebrates 111th Anniversary

Beginning April 11, 2003 the St. Matthew Missionary Baptist Church, Inc., Oxford, NC celebrated its 111th anniversary. This was the first church anniversary celebrated in the church's history. The celebration began on Friday, April 11, 2003 with a music and dance program by the dance ministry and choirs of the church. The Dance ministry, consisting of the Children of Praise, the Daughters of Praise and the Women of Praise, provided dances to two selections each. Each choir of the church praised God through song by singing four selections each.

On Saturday, April 12, 2003 we continued to glorify God for all He has done for us with a banquet at the J. F. Webb High School in Oxford, NC. The guest preacher for the occasion was Pastor James Isaac, III, of the New Hope Granville Missionary Baptist Church of Oxford, NC.

The celebration concluded the weekend of praise on Sunday afternoon, April 13, 2003, with Pastor J. Phillip Betts of the Cornerstone Christian Community Church of Oxford, NC who delivered a powerful message of praise and thanksgiving.

Truly God has blessed this church and we believe in our hearts that He

will continue to bless His people. Praise God! ■

Rocky Chapel MBC

The Rocky Chapel Missionary Baptist Church of 988 Sykes Road, Louisburg, NC in Franklin County, will observe Homecoming August 16th and 17th, 2003. On Saturday, the 16th, there will be a concert at 6:00 p.m. On Sunday, the 17th, Homecoming Services will be at the 11:00 Morning Worship Services.

The Pastor, Rev. Melton Wayne Johnson and congregation invite all to attend. For directions, call (919) 340-2112. ■

St. Paul Baptist Church

Submitted By Rev. Gregory K. Moss

The St. Paul Baptist Church is celebrating their Youth Holy Convocation on July 20-27, 2003. Our theme is "Stopping the Madness Crusade". Everyone is cordially invited to attend.

Please contact Minister Dixon or the church office for more details. Telephone (704) 334-6309. ■

By Reverend D. S. Briggs

Rural African American Church

Many books have been written that deal with defining and doing effective church administration. How to start, sustain, shift and succeed at ministry books and information written by mega-church pastors is sold at amazing volumes, regardless of culture or denomination. Still many more have been written on dealing with the intricacies of being the pastor of a total or predominantly African American congregation. Numerous books abound on Baptist policy and procedures. I currently have in my personal library many books written on the blessing, benefit, and burden of serving as pastor and doing ministry in rural churches of other cultures. However upon a recent search through many bookstores of Christianity, culture and convenience I discover that there still remains a tremendous void that needs to be filled. That conspicuous void is dealing with the establishing of an effective, empowering, God honoring ministry in the Rural African American church.

The rural African American church has always been the base of power for African Americans since its inception. The majority of our churches have their inception in the rural church. The majority of our member can trace the roots of their faith back to the rural church. There is now a reverse migration trend as many of the people who were raised in the rural churches and left to move upward to the larger urban epicenters of our country for greater economic and educational opportunities are now moving back home and to the rural church in record droves. However too often the Rural African American church is seen by too many preachers, pastors, seminary professors and even by its own members as merely a training ground or a stepping stone to a much larger, visible and financially rewarding urban ministry somewhere else. It is seen as a place to cut one's teeth, make one's mistakes, get the proverbial kinks out of one's administrative style, and learn how to preach until that day when one is called up, if you will, from the "minor leagues to the major leagues". Harry V. Richardson says in his book, *"Dark Glory: A Picture of the Church Among Negroes in the Rural South"* ...

"It is generally agreed that the Negro Church is the greatest institution developed by Negroes on American soil. It has held in common unity more Negroes than any other organization, and it has had more influence in molding the thought and life of Negro people than any other single agency. The fact is often overlooked, however that in its major development and until comparatively recent years, the Negro church was predominantly a rural church."

How quickly we forget our history. The majority of our churches were birthed from the womb of the rural church, and blessed by those that served faithfully in these churches. The rural African

American church was essentially founded in its earliest beginnings as a necessity to combat the brutal anguish of our captivity. In these churches we learned how to pray to a God who would see the affliction of His people and deliver them from out of the hands of the people and problems that oppressed them. The church served to provide a common meeting place where they could share information on the welfare and possible whereabouts of other family members. These first meeting places primarily consisted of family members who were attached to the same plantation, and who after their release from captivity, did not move too far from the lands where they were held. This gave them a greater sense of community.

If these things served as our foundation, then they must still remain if what ever is built upon it is to succeed. Our churches must be a haven of hope, where people can commune and connect with God, in prayer, in preaching, and in praise. Worship of God must reclaim its rightful place. This must be the pre-eminent order of the day in not only the rural church, but also the church in general. The Lord must be glorified and exalted for all to see. In spite of the perceived failures or shortcomings in what one author has classically dubbed the "Mighthavebeenville Church," the question that must be raised is has the Lord truly been placed at the forefront of every ministry and outreach of the church? This then becomes the primary task for teaching and training of the rural church pastor. This is our foundation. It can not and must not be removed.

We must minister to the total welfare of those we presently serve, not those we wish one day to serve. Having served two rural congregations and serving now a church that only in recent years has been assessed into the city limits, I have learned that although we come to Pastor it takes some time before we become the Pastor. Until people know we care, they do not care how much we know. It is more than the couple of hours we have services on Sunday, but ministering to the total man. It is not attacking the rural church or family church for not being like whatever church we want to model it after, but by attaching oneself to it, building it up and strengthening that same church one member at a time. It can grow deeper, warmer, and fuller, but it will take time and care. Yes rural churches can grow, prosper and do effective ministry.

Yet today there exists a sad mentality that exists within some of our minds that says that there is nothing good that can come out of the rural church, or from serving a rural church, except leaving. This negative perception attacks and attaches itself to many at every conceivable level, conscious, sub-conscious, and unconscious. Some preachers come to learn what they

can, then they leave. It has happened before and the people have prepared themselves for it to happen again. Therefore the people don't get too attached to the pastor and support fully his/her visions because they know the second they do, he or she will be gone and their dreams and aspirations will be leaving with them. Many of the pastors that serve these churches are often bi-vocational or tri-vocational, therefore they are often unable to attend many conventions and association functions, and get erroneously labeled by the uninitiated or uncaring in the ways and life of rural church ministry as pastors that do not care about the greater work of God accomplished through the associations or conventions. The truth of the matter is they could not get off from work, could not afford to go, it was not a budgeted line item for the church, or they had to spend catch up time with their family. Imagine when the smaller rural church finally pulls together enough money to go to their first convention, only to hear the names of the biggest contributing churches called and praised. They fought for three years, just to get their little church to put a little something in the budget this year for them to get to the convention. They still had to pull something out of their own pockets to really make it and it won't be reimbursed. Therefore the perception that all the convention cares about is the bigger churches and what they give to the work is unknowingly perpetuated in the minds of the smaller rural churches. These churches often already suffer from being treated as the step kids of productive and positive ministry.

Not at General Baptist, for we know

we can do more together than we can apart. This section of the Baptist Informer is just for you! The General Baptist State Convention stands ready to empower our rural churches for effective Kingdom Building. There are numerous workshops that are currently offered and if you have any ideas for any other workshops, we welcome your suggestions so we can serve this present age. The Bible says Ask and it shall be given for every one that asketh, receiveth (St. Luke 11:9-10). We can not come to you if you do not ask, but if you ask, we will come.

As a convention we desire to affirm and share with our great church family around the nation on how the Lord is blessing your ministries. Your experience will help and bless others who are laboring in the vineyard just like you. We want to answer your questions, to highlight unique rural ministry outreaches, and to share solid biblical information and books to help you in your ministry. We seek to provide hope, inspiration, and encouragement for the pastors, preachers and people that serve lovingly and faithfully in these unheralded churches in our convention. These rubies in the rural are the gems of our convention. Without you, we do not exist. Let us pull together from all of the great resources that we have in this state on how God is blessing and doing ministry in your location. Let us work together to **Serve this Present Age** and begin to disseminate some of this priceless information and share with the General Baptist family the numerous ministries that are occurring at many of the rural churches around this state.

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J.J. JOHNSON CAMP

J.J. JOHNSON BAPTIST ASSEMBLY INFORMATION

The Site:

The J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly is a tract of land comprising seventy-five (75) or more acres, much of which is covered with a mixture of North Carolina Pine, red and white oak trees. The location of the Baptist Assembly is on more than 75 rolling acres in Laurel Hill, North Carolina in Scotland County.

In 1967, approximately two-thirds of the acreage was donated by Dr. and Mrs. Joy J. Johnson and their daughter, Deborah (Mrs. Alexander Killiens). Additional acres were purchased by the Woman's Convention and General Baptist State Convention.

Our Purpose:

The purpose of the J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly in Laurel Hill is to provide a setting that is Christian in its atmosphere and is conducive to learning, worship, and meeting the needs of all individuals whom we serve. It seeks to provide opportunities for everyone to learn habits of good citizenship, and it provides at the same time opportunities to reach a maximum potential for Christian fellowship and fun experiences through democratic ideals and living.

The facility exists for the exclusive use by religious groups and/or organizations with similar aims regardless of ethnic origin.

Meeting Facilities:

At the J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly, there are various meeting facilities available. Listed below are the seating capacity (theater style) and lodging:

◆ Rowan Association Chapel	Seating Capacity: 300-400
◆ Horne Lodge	Seating Capacity: 20-25, Sleeps 12
◆ Alston Lodge	Seating Capacity: 100, Sleeps 64
◆ Lumber Bridge Association Lodge	Seating Capacity: 100, Sleeps 64
◆ Brown Assembly Dining Hall (Cafeteria Style)	Seating Capacity: 200

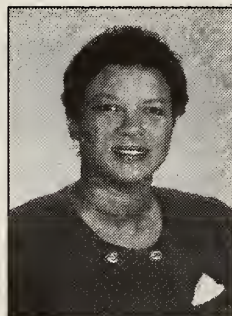
Individuals should bring their own linen, blankets, soap and other toiletries for the lodging facilities.

"And gathered them out of the lands, from the east, and from the west, from the north, and from the south." Psalm 107:3



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Current Annual Events

During the course of the year, the Conventional Family sponsors different ministries at the J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly. Among these are the following:

- ◆ Vacation Bible School (GBSC) – March
- ◆ Ministers' Wives Retreat (WBSC) – May
- ◆ Laymen's League Mini-Skills Retreat (GBSC) – May
- ◆ Leadership Training Conference (GBSC) – June
- ◆ Youth Bible Camp (WBSC) – June
- ◆ Laymen's League Boy's Summer Retreat (GBSC) – July
- ◆ Laymen's League Scouting Jamboree (GBSC) – August
- ◆ Laymen's League Men's Retreat (GBSC) – September
- ◆ North Carolina Branch of the 9th and 10th Calvary (Buffalo Soldiers) – October
- ◆ Usher's Retreat/Workshop (GBSC) – November
- ◆ Laymen's League Planning Session – December

The campus is available year round for meetings, weddings, banquets, family reunions, and other activities. Contact Rev. Eric Harris for the policies and procedures regarding each type of event.

Send Applications & Funds to:
General Baptist State Convention
J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly
603 S. Wilmington Street
Raleigh, NC 27601

(Make checks payable to J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly)

Sources: "1974" Brochure and the J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly Guide And Handbook (1985).



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(PLEASE CONTACT CHURCHES FOR SPECIFIC QUALIFICATIONS SOME REQUIRE 3 OR MORE YEARS PASTORAL EXPERIENCE, SEMINARY TRAINING, MISSIONARY BAPTIST ORDINATION, MUSICAL SKILLS) (FOR SPECIFIC CHURCH QUALIFICATIONS CONTACT THE PULPIT COMMITTEE)

PASTORS

FIRST AFRICAN BAPTIST CHURCH – GOLDSBORO, NC is currently accepting resumes for the position of **Senior Pastor**. The church is affiliated with the Bear Creek Missionary Baptist Association and the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc.

Interested persons should possess the following qualifications:

- Licensed ordained Baptist Minister
- Born again Christian
- Ability to preach/teach and have administrative skills
- Knowledgeable of Baptist doctrine, policies and procedures
- Copies of ministerial license and ordination certification
- College degree and some seminary training
- References: business/personal
- Other criteria will be discussed during interviews.

Mail resumes to:

First African Baptist Church

Attn: Deacon David Rogers

P. O. Box 1456

Goldsboro, North Carolina 27533

Deadline for resumes is September 30, 2003.

CHAPEL HILL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH – Autryville, NC: seeks a

pastor to serve as its spiritual leader, teacher, counselor, and administrator. Some requirements are as followed:

- Must be born-again as evidenced by character and dedication
- Licensed, ordained Baptist minister
- Ability to preach/teach and have administrative skills
- Five years of pastoral experience preferred
- Some theological courses completed, and continuing
- Knowledge of Baptist doctrine, policies and procedures
- A resume, letter of interest, including a vision statement of their ministry
- Legible copies of ministerial license and ordination certification
- References: Include name, address and phone number, (1) Family reference, (1) Business reference, (1) Professional reference and (2) references from pastors familiar with your character and ministry
- Other criteria will be discussed during interviews

Please mail any applications/resumes and/or related material to:

Chapel Hill Missionary Baptist Church

Attn: Deacon Bobby R. McAllister

1450 Sivertsen Road

PO Box 434

Autryville, NC 28318-8064

Ph.: (910) 567-2961

POPLAR SPRINGS MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH of Roaring River, North Carolina is seeking a Pastor. We are accepting resumes from interested applicants. Qualifications:

- Must be a Born-Again Christian
- Licensed Ordained Minister, with certifications to prove it.

- Preferred Pastoral Experience
- Must be able to preach and teach, as well as communicate with all ages
- Strong leadership qualities.

Send resumes to:

Deacon Board

2265 White Plains Rd.

Roaring River, North Carolina 28669

MILL NECK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH – Como, NC: currently accepting applications for a Pastor with strong Missionary Baptist roots. We are affiliated with the West Roanoke Missionary Baptist Association and the General Baptist State convention. *Interested applicants should provide a resume to:* Carolyn M. Farrow, Secretary, Pastor Search Committee, Mill Neck Missionary Baptist Church, P.O. Box 68, Mill Neck Rd., Como, NC 27818.

BUNCOMBE BAPTIST CHURCH – Lexington, NC: accepting resumes from interested licensed ordained Missionary Baptist ministers.

Qualifications:

- Born again Christian
- Concerned with spiritual and intellectual growth of the church
- Ability to preach and teach God's Word
- Must be willing to teach and follow the Baptist Doctrines, policies and practices
- Ability to work with all age groups in the church
- Ability to carry out administrative, leadership and counseling duties
- Work cooperatively with church officials
- Family and community oriented
- Teach Bible Study and attend Sunday

School and prayer meetings

- Theological and/or Seminary training preferred
- Good communications skills
- Must be a good role model of moral and ethical conduct

Please send resumes and inquiries to: Buncombe Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1533, Lexington, NC 27293.

GUILDFIELD M.B. CHURCH – New Bern, NC: currently accepting applications for a Pastor. Guildfield M.B. Church is an established church with a rich heritage in Eastern North Carolina. It is a growing congregation with active ministries focusing on the youth, senior citizens, the musical department, and Christian Education activities. Regular worship services are held every Sunday morning at 11:00 a.m. The church has membership in the Old Eastern Missionary Baptist Association.

PASTORAL DUTIES

- Serve as Senior Pastor and preach the Gospel
- Provide insight for spiritual growth of the church and outreach efforts
- Plan and implement Christian education opportunities for the membership
- Serve as an ex-officio member of all church auxiliaries
- Provide leadership to associate ministers affiliated with the church

QUALIFICATIONS

- Must be saved and have a personal relationship with the Lord
- Must be ordained to preach and be able to serve as an administrator of a local congregation

PULPIT VACANCY NEW LIGHT MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH HALLSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA

NEW LIGHT MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH IS NOW ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR A PASTOR. OUR WORSHIP SERVICES ARE EACH SUNDAY OF THE MONTH.

QUALIFICATIONS:

Must be a licensed ordained Missionary Baptist Minister.

- Full of Holy Ghost. Led by the Spirit of God in all matters.
- Full of wisdom, knowledge and understand the office of Pastor and performs it according to the scriptures and the needs of the church.
- Must be Association minded.
- Prefer having experience as a Pastor.
- The husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behavior.
- One that rules his own house, having a good report.
- Knows the doctrine of a Missionary Baptist Church
- Must attend meetings of different auxiliaries in the church to become familiar with the organizations, whenever possible.
- Must visit the sick and shut-in when possible.
- Must attempt to become involved with the various programs that the church participates in outside the home church calendar.

Send resumes and inquiries to:

Deacon Kenneth Bracey

1025 Red Bug Rd.

Hallsboro, North Carolina 28442

910-646-4467

General Baptist Bookstore Update

Greetings!
The General Baptist State Convention
Bookstore is OPEN.

Order your Vacation Bible School materials today!

We are having a clearance and liquidation sale. The bookstore will continue to carry GBSC publications; recommended books by our auxiliaries and books by GBSC authors. The Ministers Council has recommended the following book: *What The Bible Says To The Minister - The Minister's Personal Handbook*, \$17.00 including tax. Also we have special copies of the *GBSC Jubilee Bible*, \$39.95 and *The History of the GBSC - The Splended Enterprise*, Dr. W.B. Lewis, Dr. John Fleming and Dr. C.R. Trotter, \$32.95.

**Call today for clearance books and to place your orders,
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- Must possess interpersonal skills that facilitate interaction with church members and various community resources
- Must possess leadership abilities
- Must have personal stamina and enthusiasm to encourage the spiritual growth of the congregation
- Must have at least two years of experience in church leadership in some capacity and some Bible school training

Resumes will be accepted until the position is filled. To apply, send resume to the attention of Mrs. Vesta Mullins, Chairperson of the Pastoral Search Committee, at the church's address. For more information call Rev. Carolyn Squires, Committee Co-Chairperson at 252-638-4726.
836 Green Street
P.O. Box 12881
New Bern, NC 28560
252-633-2388

Oakey Grove Missionary Baptist Church – Clayton, NC: currently accepting applications for a Pastor with strong Missionary Baptist roots. We are affiliated with the Johnston District Missionary Baptist Association and the General Baptist State Convention. Interested applicants should provide the following:

1. A resume
2. Personal references

Send information to:
Oakey Grove Baptist Church
Pulpit Search Committee
Deacon Loomis Hodges, Chairperson
PO Box 2435
Smithfield, NC 27577

Mount Carmel Missionary Baptist Church – Elizabeth City, NC: currently accepting applications for a Pastor. The church is located in Hertford County. Interested applicants should provide the following:

1. A Resume
2. A copy of religious credentials: License/Ordination
3. Two personal references (no family references)

Send information to:
Mount Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church
Pulpit Committee
P.O. Box 1421
Elizabeth City, 27906-1421

Union Grove Baptist Church, Warrenton, NC: currently accepting applications for a Pastor. Interested applicants should provide the following:
A Resume

Send information to:
Brother Alonza Jones, Board Chairman
Pastor Search Committee
Route 2, Box 128
Norlina, NC 27563

First Missionary Baptist Church Thomasville, NC: currently accepting applications for a Pastor with strong Missionary Baptist roots. We are affiliated with the Johnston District Missionary Baptist Association and the General Baptist State Convention, interested applicants

should provide a resume. Send information to:
Tanya M. Autry, Chairperson
Pastor Search Committee
First Missionary Baptist Church
103 Church Street
Thomasville, NC 27360

Ebenezer Baptist Church –
Neburgh, NY: currently accepting applications for Senior Pastor with strong Baptist roots. The Committee will provide each candidate with an application packet. Send request to:
Ebenezer Baptist Church
ATTN: Deacon Milton Buxton/Confidential
PO Box 248
Newburgh, NY 12551-0248

Shady Grove Baptist Church –
East Spencer, NC: currently accepting applications for a Pastor with strong Missionary Baptist roots. Interested applicants should provide the following:

1. A resume
2. at least four references: (2) business (2) personal
3. A copy of religious credentials: License/Ordination

Send information to:
Shady Grove Baptist Church
ATTN: Clarence A. Jones, Chairperson
PO Box 447
East Spencer, NC 28039

Eastern Star Missionary Baptist Church – Tarboro, NC: seeking a pastor.

- He must be experienced
- Well seasoned
- He must live by the word of God
- Willing to teach Sunday school and bible study class
- Must be between the age of 25-55

Please submit resume to:
Pulpit Committee
Eastern Star Missionary Baptist Church
Post Office Box 1677
Tarboro, North Carolina 27886

Foster Memorial Baptist Church – Rocky Mount, NC: The Pulpit Search Committee of the Foster Memorial Missionary Baptist Church located in Rocky Mount, North Carolina, is accepting resume for the position of pastor. Applicants must possess the following qualifications:

- He must possess good moral and ethical conduct, living by Timothy 3:1-1, Titus 1:7-9 and abstain from study activities and inclinations as those cited in Romans 1:26-27.
- He must have a minimum of three (3) years experience as pastor with demonstrated ability in counseling and supervising all work for the church.
- He must live in the proximity of the church.
- He must be born again, filled with the Holy Spirit and called by God to preach God's word.
- He must possess a strong knowledge of the Missionary Baptist Doctrine, Church Policies, and Practices, and be willing to abide by them.
- He must have the skills required to work with all age groups, with special emphasis on

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06. Dangerous Minds
07. Don't Even Think About It
08. Fired Up By The Holy Ghost
09. Are You Full Of The Stuff
10. Let's Get On Board
11. God Picked Me To Be On His Side
12. Grace On The Race
13. Grow Up Or Blow Up
14. Hang In There
15. He Lifted Me Up Out Of The Miry Clay
16. Look Where The Lord Has Brought Me From
17. If My People
18. We Can Do It For A New Day Has Come
19. I Know What Prayer Can Do
20. Put Some Clothes On Child
21. A Right Thing In A Wrong Time
22. The Man Who Had Everything But The Right Thing
23. Soap For The Soul
24. Stay On The Lord's Side
25. If You Take One Step He'll Take Two
26. Stepping In Your Own Mess
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28. You Can't Touch This
29. Warm In A Cold Situation
30. That's The Way He Died But That's Not The End Of The Story
31. What You See Is What You Get
32. What's Faith Got To Do With It
33. You Can't Make It Without God
34. I Just Want To Say... "Thank You Lord"
35. A Heart Like Thine
36. Just A Closer Walk With Thee
37. Give Me A Clean Heart So I Can Serve You
38. What Ever The Problem God Has The Answer
39. Peace – In The Midst Of My Storm
40. I Am On The Right Road, Now!
41. A Good Man In A Bad Situation
42. Good Medicine For A Bad Ailment
43. Stand Up And Testify
44. Bad Boys! What You're Going To Do When He Comes For You
45. Angels Just Keep Watching Over Me
46. Go Ahead! Make My Day
47. A Trip To The Cross
48. Jesus! Jesus! Jesus! He Is Somebody's Preacher

49. On The Day Of Pentecost
50. Jesus Is All That! And A Whole Lot More
51. Muddy Putty In The Potter's Hands
52. When Stress Controls You Jesus Consoles You
53. Black Men And Women, Young And Old, Changing A Generation
54. I Am Black But I Am Somebody
55. Staying Afloat In A Sinking Boat
56. He That Has A Friend Must Show Himself Friendly
57. Victory Is Mine
58. Occupy Till I Come
59. A Man On A Mission / The Borrowed Ax
60. Busy In God's Business
61. That's Just Like Mama
62. He's Alive And I Am Glad About It
63. What The World Needs Now Is Love Sweet Love
64. I Moved From My Old House And My Old Friends
65. I Just Want To Know Why
66. What Do You Do When Life Is Not Fair
67. Why Do Bad Things Happen To Good People
68. What Do You Do When Your Brook Runs Dry
69. Diagnosis From Dr. Jesus, Go And See The Dr.
70. Who Is This Man
71. What Would Jesus Do
72. If I Could But Touch The Hem Of His Garment
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75. How To Stand In The Storms Of Life
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78. Get Behind Me Satan
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80. Where Are You? Adam
81. Committed Because I Am Submitted
82. Are You A Disciplined Disciple
83. Answering God's Call
84. Too Blessed To Be Stressed
85. Thrilled By His Will
86. These Things Only Come By Prayer And Fasting
87. Just Like Daddy
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the youth.

• He must have the skills required for planning and implementing a vision for spiritual, physical and financial growth of the church. — He must be community oriented, and have strong family values.

• He must have a minimum of a high school diploma preferably a degree or courses in seminary training from an accredited college or university.

• He must be willing to attend Sunday School, Prayer Meetings, and teach Bible Study.

Please send resume to:

Foster Memorial Missionary Baptist Church,
1911 South Church Street
Post Office Box 6317

Rocky Mount, NC 2802-6317

C/O The Pulpit Committee

Trustee Hiawatha Knight

MOUNT CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH — Shelby, NC: currently accepting applications for a pastor with strong Missionary Baptist roots. The Church is affiliated with the Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Association, and the General Baptist State Convention of N.C. Interested appli-

cants should provide the following:

Resume (including pastor experiences and educational qualifications)

A copy of religious credentials (license/ordination)

At least three personal references (no family)

Send information to:

Pastor Search Committee

Mount Calvary Baptist Church

P.O. Box 3181

Shelby, N.C. 28151-3181

HOPPERS CHAPEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH — Shelby, NC: now accepting resumes for the position of pastor. Potential candidates must be a born again Christian with strong Baptist roots. Hoppers Chapel is a member of the Ebenezer Baptist Association. All applicants must possess the following qualifications.

• Must be ordained and licensed

• Must have at least 1 yr. Pastoral experience

• Must provide credentials of theological training

• Must be an effective teacher and counselor

• Must possess extensive knowledge of Baptist Doctrine

• Provide a mission statement for the church

Richard H. Moore
State Treasurer

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Executive Secretary-Treasurer
General Baptist State Convention

Dear Pastor,

The General Baptist State Convention joins Richard H. Moore, State Treasurer, in encouraging your Association and church to identify your unclaimed property. As your State Treasurer and Executive Secretary Treasurer of the General Baptist State Convention, the two of us serve important roles in North Carolina. It is for this reason we want to make you aware of a program that may benefit both your church and its members.

The North Carolina Department of State Treasurer is responsible for administering the "Escheat and Unclaimed Property Program". The purpose of this program is simple; when a company or financial institution is holding money that belongs to a North Carolina resident and that individual cannot be located, the company is required by law to turn the money over to the Department of State Treasurer, where it is held until the rightful owner claims it. This "unclaimed cash" is often the result of forgotten utility deposits, bank accounts, stocks that were purchased, and checks that have not been cashed. Currently, the North Carolina Department of State Treasurer is holding over \$350 million in unclaimed cash that belongs to 1.4 million people and organizations.

It is important that as much of this money as possible gets returned to the rightful owners. In order to do that, we need your help. We hope that you can assist us in getting the word out about this program by letting your church members know it is there and making them aware of how they can check to see if they may be owed money.

The easiest way to find out if your name is on the Unclaimed Property list is to log onto the North Carolina Department of State Treasurer website at www.treasurer.state.nc.us. You then click on the "Unclaimed Property Program" link to get to a page where you can type in your name. We suggest not only checking your name with the proper spelling, but try variations on the spelling of your name, as well. Sometimes the reason money does not get to an individual is because the company sending it has the wrong address or incorrect spelling of the person's name.

It is also important to know that claiming your money through the Department of State Treasurer is completely free. You should be aware that there are services that DO charge a fee to locate any unclaimed funds that may be owed to you. It is not necessary to use these services or to pay a fee to have your money returned. You can claim your money directly from the Department of State Treasurer at no cost.

We believe sharing information regarding the "Unclaimed Property Program" with your church members is a valuable service. Not only will this information help your members to claim any money that they may be owed, but it will also be helpful to your communities as the word travels to relatives, friends and neighbors of your members. We also suggest you check the name of your church to see if money is owed to it. There are thousands of businesses and organizations that have unclaimed cash, and your church may be one of them.

We appreciate your assistance in helping us to make the citizens of North Carolina aware of this program, and look forward to working with you to return as much money as possible to your church members. The General Baptist Foundation is also available to assist you in locating your money at no cost; simply call the Foundation toll free at 1-866-858-7847 or log on to the General Baptist State Convention's website at www.GBSC.org, then click on the [N.C. Department of State Treasurer](http://www.GBSC.org) link to access the "Unclaimed Property Program".

Sincerely,

Richard H. Moore
State Treasurer

Dr. Archie Logan, Jr.
Executive Secretary-Treasurer,
General Baptist State Convention

• Live in close proximity to the church

The applicant must have the ability to plan and implement a growth strategy for both the spiritual and physical growth of the church.

Send all resumes to:

Hoppers Chapel Missionary Baptist Church
C/O Pulpit Committee

415 West Graham St.

Shelby, N.C. 28150

CHURCH STAFF MUSICIANS:

BASIC REQUIREMENTS FOR SERVICE:

1. Born-again Christian, Spirit-filled, and divinely gifted in music ministry.

2. Willingness to spiritually align the music ministry with Pastoral vision.

3. Able to play the piano, keyboard and/or organ; able to read music and versatile.

4. Able to prepare choirs for Sunday morning worship services and other services.

5. Able to teach, as, well as direct choirs, with humility and love.

6. Able to rehearse with all choirs on schedule, and available for all Sunday services.

7. Able to accompany Pastor and choirs to other services as required (or ensure qualified substitute is available).

8. Able to select appropriate hymns and songs for worship.

SAINT JAMES BAPTIST CHURCH, INC., DURHAM, NC - Seeks a full time Minister of Music with the following requirements:

• Born-again Christian, Spirit-filled, divinely

gifted in music ministry

• Willingness to spiritually align the music ministry with Pastoral vision

• Ability to play piano, keyboard and/or organ

• Ability to read music and versatile

• Ability to prepare choirs for Sunday morning worship services and other services

• Ability to teach, as well as direct choirs with humility and love

• Ability to accompany the Pastor and choirs at various engagements

• Other duties as outlined

Compensation range: \$28,000.00 to \$33,000.00 plus

Health benefits, vacation, and tuition reimbursement

Please send resume and cover letter to:

Vicki Davis, Chair

Minister of Music Search Committee

Saint James Baptist Church, Inc.

1305 West Club Boulevard

Durham, NC 27705

(919) 286-3680 ext. 155

www.stjamesbaptist.org

Closing date: July 8, 2003

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - RALEIGH, NC is seeking a full time Minister of Music at it's location at 101 South Wilmington Street in Raleigh, NC. First Baptist Church is a historical black congregation organized at the North Carolina State House (now the Capitol) in 1812. This historical congregation seeks an individual who is willing to grow with its Pastor, Dr. Dumas A. Harshaw, Jr. and his flock. This position requires a

Beginning June 2003 we will have an 8:00 a.m. early Sunday Morning Worship Service. Join us for a blessed time in the Lord!



Dr. James F. Linville
Pastor

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Baptist Church

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Mission Statement:

"A Saving Station for Lost Souls and Enrichment Center for Christians"

Website: www.pineygrovebcinc.org

E-mail: pgbc2005@bellsouth.net

CLASSIFIEDS

music and worship leader who is spiritual and experienced in providing the total awareness of the movement of God's spirit in the assembly of God's people.

Principal Function: The Minister of Music at First Baptist Church is responsible to the Pastor and is supervised by the Pastor for the development and promotion of the entire music program.

Duties and Responsibilities: The duties and responsibilities are as follows:

1. Direct Planning, organizing, conducting, and evaluating of a comprehensive music ministry.
2. Supervise the work of paid or volunteer music staff.
3. Cooperate with the church process to enlist and train leaders for the church music ministry, including choir workers, song leaders, and accompanists for the church worship experiences.
4. Lead in planning and promoting a choir program, direct and coordinate the work of choir directors.
5. Arrange and provide music for weddings, funerals, special projects, ministries, and other church-related activities upon request.
6. Plan, organize, and promote choir tours, mission trips, camps, festivals, workshops, clinics, and programs for the various choirs.
7. Develop and supervise a music library, and maintain materials, supplies, musical instruments and other equipment.
8. Keep informed on music methods, materials, promotion, and administration through

continuing education and attending music workshops.

9. Prepare an annual music budget and manage the approved budget.

10. Assist the pastor in planning all services of worship, coordinate the music program with the church calendar and emphasize the church vision.

11. Lead in the development of a music academy.

12. Perform other duties as assigned by the pastor.

ST. JAMES BAPTIST CHURCH - Greensboro, NC: Seeks Minister of Music with the following requirements:

- Born-again Christian, Spirit-filled, divinely gifted in music ministry
- Willingness to spiritually align the music ministry with Pastoral vision
- Ability to play piano, keyboard and/or organ, ability to read music and versatile
- Ability to prepare choirs for Sunday morning worship service and other services
- Ability to teach, as well as direct choirs, with humility and love
- Ability to rehearse with all choirs on schedule, and available for all Sunday services.
- Ability to accompany Pastor and choirs to other services as required (or assure qualified substitute is available)
- Ability to select appropriate hymns and songs for worship
- Has the God given ability to work with diverse groups and personalities.

- Preferably a degree in music
- Must be trustworthy, punctual, and fair in all of service to the congregation

Duties include: Be prepared for worship service and rehearsals; Be on time for worship service and rehearsals; Make sure instruments are in good condition at all times for performances; Have immediate access to "Baptist Hymnals" at all times; Be receptive to spontaneous input of members; Have cordial spirit in presenting rehearsal strategy; Be flexible in presentation; Be mindful of time; Adjust accordingly; Try to be available for engagements representing St. James outreach ministry; Implement new strategies and methods gradual, so growth can be achieved. All applicants send resume to:

St. James Baptist Church
Attention Rev. King
and Music Committee
536 West Florida Street
Greensboro, NC 27406

MINISTER OF MUSIC WANTED
SPRINGFIELD BAPTIST CHURCH - Stanley, NC:

- A Spirit-filled leader - skilled in the Word
- Child of God
- Faithful and committed to God's program
- The gift to play by ear with or without the accompaniment of other musicians
- Has the ability to read and teach music
- Plays versatile music - which includes hymns, spirituals, contemporary gospel and praise songs

- Available to accompany the pastor and choirs to other churches when and as needed
- Available for all rehearsals and Sunday Worship service

Please contact: Melissa Fanning - (H) 704-563-3230 or Pastor Theodore Armstrong - Church 704-263-4426

MINISTER OF MUSIC NEEDED - Wake Forest, NC: congregation seeks musician. 1) The duties include working directly with the Pastor in order to assist and cooperate with him in Christian Worship, 2.) Playing during Sunday morning worship service, 3). Rehearsing with various choirs one night per week, 4.) And accompanying the Pastor on engagements to other churches. Please forward a cover letter and resume to: Evans Grove Missionary Baptist Church 12700 Creedmoor Road Highway 50 Wake Forest, NC 27587 (919) 870-8874

MINISTER OF MUSIC VACANCY: THE SPRING GREEN MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH - Warrenton, NC: seeks a Minister of Music to provide musical direction and accompaniment for 4 choirs in the church. This person will work closely with the Pastor to provide spiritual leadership in the ministry of Jesus Christ through music, i.e. hymns, spiritual songs, and praise and worship music that glorifies God.

We are accepting resumes from candi-

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CONTACT US TODAY

CLASSIFIEDS

dates with the appropriate qualifications. (Specific qualifications listed in beginning of staff musician section.)

For additional information please send inquiry or resume to:

Spring Green Missionary Baptist Church
PO Box 924, Warrenton, NC 2589
Rev. Dennis G. Lindsay, Pastor

MUSICIAN NEEDED - Oakboro, NC:

Must be a Christian available to serve every Sunday. Prepare Choirs and Praise Team for Sunday morning worship. Rehearse with choirs on scheduled times. Be available to accompany Pastor and choirs to church functions. Direct congregation in congregational hymns. Must be able to play by ear as well as read music

To apply call:

(704) 532-6813 or E-mail to Galilee, NC@aol.com

Galilee Missionary Baptist Church
PO. Box 644, Oakboro, NC 28129

CHURCH MUSICIAN VACANCY:

FIRST MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH - Selma, NC: seeks musician for youth choir. Must be a Christian with good character.

Requirements:

- Play the organ and piano
- Able to play sacred and gospel music
- Read music and have the ability to play by ear

Send resume to:

Reverend S. Manfred Isom, Pastor
415 Star Ruby Drive
Knightsdale, NC 27545

MINISTER OF MUSIC NEEDED: THE PENN AVENUE MOUNT OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH - Lewiston, NC: seeking

a musician for a station church, a Christian, who is responsible, has good character and a good reputation.

Requirements:

- *Plays the organ and piano
- *Able to work with a diverse group of singers
- *Experienced in all sacred music
- *Reads music and is versatile in playing by ear

Send resumes or responses to:

Mount Olive Baptist Church
PO Box 214
Lewiston-Woodville, NC 27849
Attention: William W. Peele, Jr.

MINISTER OF MUSIC WANTED: THE PENN AVENUE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH - Oxford, NC: currently seeking a Minister of Music.

QUALIFICATIONS:

(Specific qualifications listed in beginning of staff musician section.)

*Will be responsible with the pastor's approval in hiring other musicians if deemed necessary.

Salary: Negotiable

Sunday worship services. Service begins each Sunday at 11 a.m. with the exception of 5th Sunday services which begin at 10 a.m. Please send resume to the above listed address or inquiries may be made by calling one of the above listed numbers.

CHURCH MUSICIAN NEEDED -

Warren County, NC: Knowledge of music and the ability to play by ear is appreciated. Presently, morning worship service is held every fourth (4th) Sunday, but we are consid-

ering an additional Sunday for services. Must be able to play for youth choir and adult choir. Church is located in Warren County, North Carolina. For further information, please call:

(252) 257-0221

CHURCH MUSICIAN: THE CEDAR GROVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH - Gibson, NC: seeking a person to serve as Church Musician. Qualifications:

(Specific qualifications listed in beginning of staff musician section.) Salary negotiable. Please send resume to Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Church at this address. Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Church
14600 Railroad St.
Gibson, NC 28343

CHURCH MUSICIAN:

THE FRIENDSHIP MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH - High Point, NC: accept-

ing resumes for a Church Musician. Qualifications: (Specific qualifications listed in beginning of staff musician section.)

Salary negotiable.

715 West Willis Ave.

High Point, NC 27260

JEFFRIES CROSS BAPTIST CHURCH - Burlington, NC:

Send cover letter and resume to Jeffries Cross Baptist Church, 2015 Jeffries Cross Rd., Burlington, NC 27217. Phone: 336-226-9626. We are currently seeking a musician who will work

directly with the pastor to provide spiritual leadership in the music ministry.

Qualifications: 1. A Christian with piano,

keyboard, organ ability; read music, play chords, teach harmony, direct choirs, conduct two rehearsals per month with four choirs, accompany pastor on engagements, accommodate traditional and contemporary worship styles.

CHURCH MUSICIAN - Hope Mills, NC: Swans Creek Missionary Baptist Church, North Carolina. Qualifications:

*A Spirit-filled leader - divinely gifted in music ministry

*Willingness to align the music ministry with Pastoral vision

*Able to play piano, keyboard; able to read music and play by ear

*Able to prepare choirs for morning worship service and other services

*Able to rehearse with all choirs on a regular basis and available for all Sunday services

*Accompany Pastor and choirs to other services.

Please contact or send resume to: 2404 Swans Creek Church Rd., Hope Mills, NC 28348 (910)323-4595

MINISTER OF MUSIC NEEDED -

Henderson, NC: congregation seeking a full-time minister of music, who will be responsible for directing, managing, and developing all functions and aspects associated with planning and implementing a comprehensive Church Music Ministry. Must be available for all worship services and practices.

Send resumes or responses to:

St. James MBC, P.O. Box 2205, Henderson, NC 27536. Attention: William H. Clayton, II Senior Pastor.

"Busy Building To Serve The Present Age"

The General Baptist State Convention is looking for individuals or churches to donate materials necessary to better organize the space that is available at Baptist Headquarters. We are in the process of building shelves and storage units to better organize our financial and archived information. This is necessary because as the Convention grows, we find we are requiring more storage area.

The Laymen's League of First Baptist Church in Raleigh (Dr. Dumas A. Harshaw, Jr., Pastor) have generously volunteered their time with this project.

We are looking for the following items to be donated:

Lumber: 1/2 inch plywood, 2x4's, 2x2's, 1x4's, 2x10's, and Nails

For more information, please contact Headquarters at:

(919) 821-7466 or Toll-Free: (800) 639-4272

You may also fax a list of the items you can donate to:

(919) 836-0061

(Please include all contact information)



3rd ANNUAL

General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina

Family & Friends DAYS!

Saturdays in August!
August 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30, 2003

What's New IN 2003!

CELEBRATE FAMILY FUN
at Virginia's Premier Theme Park!
Come and enjoy a full day of fun, food and fellowship at Paramount's Kings Dominion with your family and friends!

Program INFORMATION

SPECIAL DISCOUNT TICKETS:

\$25 ages 7 and above
you save \$16.99
off the \$41.99 regular general admission

\$22 ages 3 to 6
you save \$5.99
off the \$27.99 regular child admission

Children 2 and under are admitted free.
Tickets include unlimited use of all regular rides, shows and attractions except pay-per-experience attractions.

The new Drop Zone Stunt Tower™, at 305 feet, is North America's tallest drop ride, and twice as tall as any other drop tower in the Mid-Atlantic. This tower of thrills promises daring riders a 272-foot freefall at 72 miles-per-hour!

Everyone loves Nickelodeon's **SpongeBob SquarePants**! The underwater sensation stars in his own 3D movie adventure in the Action FX Theater. PLUS, out in the Park, you can meet and greet Bikini Bottom's squishiest citizen.

KINGS DOMINION

DISCOUNT TICKET ORDER FORM

General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc.

Name: _____
Church: _____
Address: _____
(no P.O. Boxes)
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Home Phone: _____
Work Phone: _____
Email: _____

Yes — we would like to order:

_____ admission tickets (ages 7 and above) x \$25.00 = \$ _____
_____ admission tickets (ages 3 to 6) x \$22.00 = \$ _____
Postage fee (per order) \$ 5.00

Total Amount Due (Payment Enclosed) \$ _____

Payment: (check one)

Make check payable to Paramount's Kings Dominion

☐ Certified Check ☐ Cashier's Check ☐ Money Order

☐ Church/Organization Check

☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover ☐ AMEX

ACCOUNT # _____ EXP. DATE: _____

NAME OF CARDHOLDER _____

SIGNATURE _____

Complete the above order form and send with payment to:

GBSC Days
P.O. Box 2000
Doswell, VA 23047-2000

Call-in or Fax Credit Card Orders

Call: 804-876-5561, mention GBSC Days
and ask for your tickets to be mailed to you.

Or Fax: 804-876-5076

Remember: Allow 7 days to process order

In ministering to youth, a very important aspect in the development of relationships is to share in moments of fellowship and recreation. In our on-going efforts to provide such opportunities for youth in the General Baptist State Convention of N.C., Inc., we have established a relationship with Paramount's Kings Dominion.

This relationship exemplifies itself in the form of "GBSC of N.C., Inc. Family Day" at Paramount's Kings Dominion. On August 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30, 2003. In addition to the usual thrills and frills of the Park, the GBSC of N.C., Inc. will also be there!

Why not plan your Vacation Bible School activity, your Sunday School picnic, and your church family recreational event for one of these days?

Join us at Paramount's Kings Dominion! There's no better time! We hope to see you there!

For more information call
Paramount's Kings Dominion
Group Sales at 804-876-5561.

MOUNT ZION FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

320 W. Thomas Street • Rocky Mount, NC 27801

This is an appeal to any members, former members, friends and/or acquaintances of the Mt. Zion First Baptist Church, Rocky Mount, NC.

We, the Archives and History Auxiliary, would like to obtain copies of photos of all former pastors of Mt. Zion in an effort to honor these men of God with a Pastoral Gallery. We would like to dedicate the Gallery during our church's anniversary in November.

Anyone who has photos of former pastors and is willing to share them, please contact the church office (252-442-1627) weekdays between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. We need photos of the following pastors: 1st pastor - Cain Gibbs; 2nd - Cain Barnes; 3rd - George Norwood; 4th - George Smith; 5th - Simon Hicks; 6th - Daniel Martin; 9th - Nathaniel Marriot; 10th - R.A. Morrissey; and 14th - Rev. Hunter

Anyone who would like to send a copy of a photograph, please do so by mailing it to the above address, to the attention of Mrs. Nancy Gary Joyner, President of the Archives and Hlstory Auxiliary.

Thank You and God Bless!

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55 Years of Experience

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Post Office Box 241 — Laurinburg, N.C. 28353

PHONE 910-277-0274

"When Building Is Done Better, We'll Do It"

To Minister, Trustee and Church Members,
Dear Christian Leader and Friends,

It is my hope that I will be a help to you in your next building project. Although you may not have a plan that exactly fits your needs, I may help you find a starting point to develop your own plan.

I have built and designed more than 45 churches in my 55 years of general contracting.

Church building should be compatible with their neighborhoods. The quality of construction, design, and landscaping should create a meaningful setting which is an inspiration to its members and the community.

When you consult with me, my first step is a detailed inquiry of the various programs at your church. This enables me to understand the main focus of your ministry and it helps you understand my services. Our first meeting is to get acquainted and find out your needs.

The second step is providing a master plan of your entire church property and renderings or models of the proposed buildings.

The third step is preparing your construction drawings which include:

1. Sound systems
2. Special lighting effects
3. Design plans
4. Structural design
5. Energy saving heating and cooling
6. Specifications (in laypersons language)

I have found that coordinating all of these design phases through one firm avoids costly delays, misunderstanding and mistakes during constructions.

There are many phases in church planning and design which require a specialist in that field. When you start your next building program, I hope you will give me a call.

At Your Service,
Thomas L. Jones

General Baptist State Convention of NC Foundation

Benefits Options

Health Insurance

- Quality health coverage for individuals and families age six months to 64 1/2 years

- High quality care from any network provider with a \$10 co-pay
- Preferred care from a personally chosen physician
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- Supply Charges
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- Celtic Care Plus Options (Preventive Care, Healthy Lifestyle Program, Rx Drug Card)
- Medical
- Care Charges
- Psychiatric
- Hospice Care
- Emergency Room



Life Insurance

- Term Life Insurance
- Fixed Whole Life Insurance
- Universal Whole Life Insurance

Retirement

Matching Gifts of 5-10%

- Annuities
- IRA's
- Long Term Care Insurance
- Individual Investment Accounts



The General Baptist Foundation offers each affiliated church, bookkeeping services to small (0 to 150 members) and medium size churches (150 to 300 members). This assistance includes the following:

Description	# Of Checks Written	GBSC Member Cost	Non-GBSC Member Cost	
Bank Statement Reconciliation	30 or less each month	\$10.00 per week	\$15.00 per week	General Ledger
Financial Statement Preparation	Quarterly	No Charge (1)	No Charge (1)	Income and Expense Reports Only*
Accounting Software Installation on local church computer		\$249.00	\$349.00	Includes 1-Hour Of Training (2)

Balance Sheet Preparation Cost Is Determined On A Case-By-Case Basis.

(1) Included in the cost of the Bank Statement Reconciliation Service.

(2) No cost for mileage up to a 30-mile radius from Cary, NC. Cost after the 30-mile radius is calculated and \$1.00 per mile round trip.

If your church would like assistance in this matter, please contact the Foundation toll-free at 1(866) 687-4631 or 1-866-OURGOD1 and ask for a representative to explain the details.

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3. With an Annuity, you can never out live your income. What other financial vehicle can guarantee that?
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5. With an Annuity, the surrender charges disappear after a defined period of time, unlike other instruments that reset their penalties each time the account is renewed.
6. With an Annuity, the interest rate can be higher than other alternatives.
7. With an Annuity, proceeds may not be subject to being tied up in court during probate at the time of the account owner's death.
8. With an Annuity, you have the flexibility of a variety of payout and savings options.
9. With an Annuity, you can leave an endowment for causes and people that you care about, which pays them a stream of income for a set period of time.
10. You'll feel safe and secure knowing that you made a smart financial decision for you and your family's future.

* May be subject to surrender charges for early withdrawal.

For more information on how annuities work and how you can open your account today, call the Foundation at 1-866-687-4631 and ask to speak with a representative.

Benefits Provided By A&B Planning & Insurance Group 1400 Crescent Green Suite G-100 Cary, NC 27511
Frederick D. James, Benefits Coordinator (919) 858-7817 (919) 816-9241

COVENANT OF CARE PLAN

"From Bondage To Abundance!"

By Archie D. Logan, Jr., Executive Secretary-Treasurer

The General Baptist Foundation offers every Pastor and his or her local church a "Covenant of Care Plan". This plan can be individually customized to meet every budget. It contains insurance for life, short and long term disability, and long-term care. Take a look at the example below and

then call the Foundation to get your plan started today. contact the Foundation toll-free at 1 (866) 687-4631 or 1-866-OURGOD1 and ask for a representative to explain the details.

Call the GBF, Inc., for more information on this and other programs that will help your congregation and pastor.

Benefit	Monthly Contribution	Annual Contribution	Covenant Partners
Short Term Disability (1)	\$24.76	\$297.12	Unum Provident Insurance
Long Term Disability (2)	\$21.18	\$254.16	Unum Provident Insurance
Life Insurance (3)	\$52.39	\$628.68	Unum Provident Insurance
Dependent Life (4)	\$4.00	\$48.00	Unum Provident Insurance
Long Term Care (5)	\$60.17	\$722.04	Unum Provident Insurance
Total	\$197.50*	\$2,370.00	

*\$35 monthly administrative fee included in pricing.

- (1) 7-day elimination period for sickness or accident. Benefit Period 12 weeks up to a maximum of 60%/\$1000 weekly
- (2) 90-day elimination period for sickness or accident. Benefit period to age 65 up to a maximum of 60%/\$3000 monthly.
- (3) \$50,000 guaranteed renewable term-life policy. Coverage is reduced to \$32,500 at age 65 and then, \$25,000 at age 70+.
- (4) \$25,000 guaranteed renewable term life policy for spouse. Coverage is reduced to \$16,250 at age 65 and then, \$12,500 at age 70+. ** Children: Live Birth to 6 months = \$1,000, 6 months to 19 years (26-yrs. If full-time student) = \$2,000
- (5) 3-year benefit period, \$2,000 facility/\$1,000 in home care, indemnity policy, \$72,000 maximum, can get extra coverage if needed.

ATTENTION: Pastors, Trustees, and Financial Committees

Mr. Dexter Perry and his staff have finance, loan, annuity and long-range planning programs that help build the stewardship foundations for your church. Also ask them about the

General Baptist Annuity Gift Program we are doing through North Carolina Mutual Insurance Company. One telephone call will make a blessed difference in your church Ministry. ■

If You Begin At Age	Monthly Pretax Deposits	At Age 65 You will Have Deposited	At Age 65 Your 403(b) Balance Will Be
25	\$25.00	\$12,000.00	\$49,787.27
	\$50.00	\$24,000.00	\$99,574.54
	\$100.00	\$48,000.00	\$199,149.07
35	\$25.00	\$9,000.00	\$25,112.88
	\$50.00	\$18,000.00	\$50,225.75
	\$100.00	\$36,000.00	\$100,451.50
45	\$200.00	\$72,000.00	\$200,903.01
	\$50.00	\$12,000.00	\$23,102.04
	\$100.00	\$24,000.00	\$46,204.09
55	\$200.00	\$48,000.00	\$92,408.18
	\$300.00	\$72,000.00	\$138,612.27
	\$50.00	\$6,000.00	\$8,193.97
65	\$100.00	\$12,000.00	\$16,387.93
	\$200.00	\$24,000.00	\$32,775.87
	\$300.00	\$36,000.00	\$49,163.80
75	\$400.00	\$48,000.00	\$65,551.74

*Assumes an 6% rate of return annually plus reinvestment of all dividends and interest earned.

Taxes will be owed once 403(b) distributions begin, however most individuals assume they will be in a more favorable tax bracket at retirement or able to take advantage of a special tax treatment associated with 403(b) plans called a five-year forward averaging. Professional tax counsel is advisable to determine if special tax treatment for lump sum distributions is available.

A unique experience takes place periodically within organized religious organizations; the departure and 'call' for a new pastor. Pastors depart from churches for numerous reasons – personal goals, familial reasons, differences in church objectives with congregations, an exhausted message (drying up spiritually).

Pastoral Search is an effort to find a pastor who can meet the needs of a congregation. What is the Pastoral Search process? Who is qualified to be a Pastoral Search team member? What are the goals of Pastoral Search? How are issues addressed? What are the ground rules? How does an interim pastor affect the Pastoral Search process? These are major questions, which need to be asked at the beginning of the process, not in the middle or at the end. But with members or people with little or no experience with the process, it is a difficult journey. How can the African American Church respond to these issues?

Pastoral Search issues are relevant to denominations who have a degree of self-determination and autonomy. This would be Baptist and independent denominations. Methodist/Episcopal based denominations traditionally have their decisions on pastors decided by the denomination's leadership. This can be both good and bad, because the leadership sees the most promising pastors early and decide on the churches that can benefit the denomination the most. It limits the ability of churches not in major urban

Pastoral Search - The Good, The Bad & The Ugly

areas to review and assess these pastors for their needs. Consequently, the population centers outside of the major cities only see pastors that may or may not be a 'good fit' or share the goals of the local church.

The connection within the African American church and their pastor is truly unique and special. The African American Christian Church tradition has developed from the experience of slavery and 'Jim Crow', which has been the seminal marking event in African American lives. Out of the slave experience came the African Methodist Episcopal Church in Philadelphia and later the First African Baptist Churches in Georgia. Both churches had similar beginnings, freed slaves who were able to organize their oral tradition on the plantation or workplace into weekly meeting with a worship leader who could within his/her limited ability, interpret the Bible for their less literate brothers and sisters.

The selection of a pastor within the independent/autonomous African American church is particularly difficult. African-American Churches whose membership developed with different goals and levels of religious commitment. Members who have played various leadership roles and have no desire to see his/her position threatened. Members who are still grieving on the departure of the previous pastor. Members deeply suspicious of change and direction of their

church. Members who depend on a pastor for major decisions in their lives. Members who only wish to participate on Sunday with a limited level of involvement. The problem is reconciling the various members' needs with the ultimate goal of finding a candidate who can be an 'honest spiritual broker' to guide and lead the congregation.

The African American church has been the principal institution that has subsisted for over 200 years that has been builder and developer of African American communities, mentoring and development of role models within the African American community, and economic and educational developer of the community. Consequently its role is vital and important and commensurate with that role is the level of leadership in its churches.

THE GOOD

Our modern (last 50 years) African American church has led the Civil Rights movement, produced our most prominent political and business leaders and grown in immeasurable ways. In the last 20 years, we have seen the growth of the mega church, televangelism, and public intellectuals who have been trained in the African American church tradition. No one in the early part of this century could have predicted this outcome.

These forces have produced a dichotomy in the African American church tradition.

How does the African American church remain viable, providing a platform for our community, yet continue with a tradition that honors our heritage? How do we make the transition for a church to lead the community? How do we attract a pastor who can represent the church and share the values and visions of the church?

An effort to make the transition is through the Pastoral Search effort. The typical search effort is undertaken reluctantly by church leaders. Uncertainty, Doubt, and Anxiety will always be a part of the decision making process. Church leaders will have to ask hard questions: How do we move forward? What made our church a success (or failure)? What did we like about our previous pastor? What did we dislike? Did the previous pastor share our vision and values? What are our vision and values? How does the search process work? Who should be on the search committee? Is our church leadership (deacons, stewards, trustees, etc.) equipped to handle the search process? How do we handle interims? What are the ground rules for interims and church leadership?

THE BAD

The African American church sits on a precipice. Continue to be relevant to the local community and lives of African American people, move directionally into the mega church quasi-entertainment venue, or

See PASTORAL SEARCH, next page

do nothing? There is no good or pat answer, each case is different and the needs will be different for each church congregation.

In the Pastoral Search effort, the leadership of the church will have to ask the fundamental questions. How those questions are resolved will be the key to directionally how successful the Pastoral Search effort will be.

Pastoral Searches can go badly when no clear direction or understanding of the needs of the congregation is established. Churches that start with a Congregational Survey can get off to a much better start. The survey allows for the leadership to get an understanding of what the congregation wants in a pastor, and ultimately what it wants in a church. Members are not very forthcoming to the leadership of their desires, or do they know what they want in a Church. Their principal concern in whether their individual needs are met spiritually or secularly. The Survey allows a degree of anonymity and some idea of the collective needs of the Church.

Interpreting the Survey results will provide a rough road map, not a clear and definitive direction. The congregation will have more concerns as the process develops. Depending on the level of control by the previous pastor, unmet needs will surface that never were exhibited in earlier years. The Survey will only show a microcosm of the needs of a congregation. Be prepared for more and extensive dialogue as the process moves along.

THE UGLY

With the departure of the previous pastor, the leadership will have to recognize a substantial amount of grief will take place among the congregation. The previous pastor will be viewed in multiple lights depending on a member's relationship with the pastor. A member who worked closely and believed in that pastor's vision will be in denial for a long period of time, no matter who replaces him. The member who only worked tangentially on projects or on independent efforts will have a more dispassionate view of the previous pastor. The member who was and is active within the church leadership (deacons, stewards, trustees) will have mixed emotions, remembrance of the good times and reflection on the disagreements with the pastor.

All these components will go into a very difficult and ugly period when the church moves to selecting a new pastor. Emotions that were subsumed for various reasons will be exhibited in various fashions. Grief and remorse for the previous pastor who led them in ways very personal to the member, anger will be exhibited due to the perception that a member is not being heard, deep mistrust to the efforts and motives of the Pastoral Search Committee. The effort to maintain a Christian community is severely tested during this period. People will exhibit behavior unbelievable 6 months prior to the vacant pulpit.

Churches in Transition

These aspects of behavior are more

prevalent within our African American church due to components of our social development. The individual who has analyzed this behavior is Dr. Cornel West, who has observed that due to the social effects of slavery and then Jim Crow until the 1960's, African Americans are more risk averse than any other racial or social group. This aspect of 'Risk Aversion' is evident and documented in how we have a difficult time making transitions to new leaders in organizations. Churches with pastors who have strong, dominant personalities leave indelible marks on the congregation. Some of these marks are good, some can be fairly negative. Weak indecisive pastors leave congregations in varying degrees of uncertainty of the direction of their church or their individual standing within the church. In both cases, 'risk aversion' surfaces and how it is addressed is a very crucial component.

There has been no systematic or institutionalized mechanism for handling transitions. The 'case' where the transition has been fairly smooth and the congregation has made the emotional move to the new pastor is in churches inculcated with the change process. An example is First Baptist Church of Melrose Park, Illinois, an African-American congregation, with the traditional values of the Black Church. This church is located in an area which has historically been White, working class with a heavy industrial economy. A church of 300-400, whose previous pastor Rev. Harry McNelly, built a small but vibrant, spiritually filled congregation, into a large successful Christian School, new sanctuary and remarkable leadership team.

Rev. McNelly passed in December of 2001. But before he died, he prepared the congregation for change by nurturing, mentoring and preparing the church for Rev. John Belser, who was a member for 30 years and had enormous credibility within the church.

The opposite of the First Baptist of Melrose Park is the so-called 'worst case' transition. The previous pastor has either died, resigned or been removed by the church. There either has been no internal church mechanism for transition, there have been no leadership preparations for transitions, or the personality of the previous pastor left little or no room for discussion of transitions. In this environment, the three components that haunt African-Americans the most comes into view - Doubt, Uncertainty, and Anxiety. These three 'vices' will show their head no matter how large or how small a congregation.

The principal doctrine of the Baptist church is 'membership equality in rank and privileges'. This doctrine is more commonly known as "Spiritual Democracy". Has been described as a belief system, where the members are independent and have a degree of self-determination. However, as in all democracies, moving from point A to point B can be messy, argumentative, and unpleasant. The question is when does Spiritual Democracy become "Spiritual Anarchy" or even worse "Spiritual Enabling"? It is very exciting to self determine to a degree of where the congregation can grow their church. But when

does the leadership step in to say enough or a decision has to be made. Anarchy in churches takes shape when core elements (20-30 members), who can be vocal and strong in their views can tie a church decision-making process to their views. African-Americans in particular are reluctant to think independently of the group due to the social pressure within. Self determination works both ways - can take you to new heights or new lows.

An additional component, which is as damaging as the anarchy that rises within churches, is "Spiritual Enabling". African-Americans can be blind, deaf, and dumb to facts, to reality, to the truth of the church during a transition. Enabling takes place when no one in the church's leadership is willing or capable of informing people of the facts. Enabling takes place when vocal minorities who have been allowed a degree of freedom are allowed to dominate the direction, the focus and the planned transition of a church. Enabling allows the leadership to not make decisions, allows transitional decisions to be deferred, and undermines the entire transitional process. The argument is made that these people have a voice, but when the voice is anarchic in nature, and a desire to take the church backwards to some area of uncertainty. Enabling is very, very detrimental. No one is helped, the body is hurt badly, the church is set back and recovery could take years.

Decision, Decision, Decisions

The Black Church can be a glorious place of worship and service or it can devolve into a quagmire of indecision, and unresolved issues. A component of our culture is accountability, whether in the corporate or social arenas. African Americans have never had a social culture where the accountability component is a major factor.

It was understandable during the 19th century during a period of formidable opposition to our quest for citizenship and security. To not be 'accountable' was a survival technique, to avoid the consequences of an action.

In the period of Transition and Pastoral Search, a need for leadership will be necessary for the church to move forward. Unfortunately, due to our socialization, we (African Americans) reluctantly ask 'hard questions', understand our, or communicate a vision, and fail to support forward thinking individuals.

Churches are institutions with cultures, traditions, and values that are particular to

that individual church. It is difficult to translate the models from one church to another. The aspects which make this process difficult are internal social structures developed over the years by the previous pastor. Congregations that have had relative success working together have shared values. The result of the decisions regarding the church is made by the Sr. Pastor. He has acted as the principal 'equity holder' in the church with the deacons, trustees and members playing minor shareholder roles. Conflicts are resolved to his discretion, projects or programs are brought to conclusion. The congregation has the burden of having to make hard choices lifted from their shoulders.

The difficult part comes when the pastor has left with no transitional process in place. Individuals who have no experience in the decision making process are called upon to make 'hard calls' or ask 'hard questions'. In this environment Lay members (deacons, trustees) are thrust into an environment, much like an octopus with no head. Multiple constituencies (ministerial staff, trustee boards, auxiliaries) are vying for so-called "Leadership Roles". In all likelihood, very few if any have any 'skills, discipline or understanding of the process.

How does a church handle a ministerial staff, which has not been allowed to develop and grow? How does a church handle individuals who have played roles in the past which may not be suitable within the new church? How is a Pastoral Search handled and who is best equipped to participate? How is the interim handled and who will set and maintain the ground rules? What does a church do in a new 'open' environment? What are the limits imposed upon the congregation and who sets those limits? Who and how does the leadership articulate the vision of the new church?

To move successfully, the operative words are Prayer and Accountability. Prayer will play a major role, going to God will help all involved in the process. Without Prayer, the vision and hope of the members will perish. Concurrent to Prayer is the aspect of Accountability. The members must demand Accountability from their church leadership, without it, enormous and misguided compromises will be made ostensibly to keep the peace; but, inevitably, non-decisions will only corrupt the process, the leadership and ultimately the church.

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Volume 126, No. 8

Publication of the General Baptist State Convention of N.C., Inc.
Voice of 500,000 North Carolina Baptists

August 2003

By Dr. Archie D. Logan, Jr.
Executive Secretary-Treasurer

We greet you in the name of our

Savior Jesus Christ! We are in the last quarter of this GBSC fiscal year. We are running behind in our projected stewardship contributions. If you have not sent your stewardship contributions to the GBSC for the 2002-2003



Dr. Archie Logan, Jr.

fiscal year, please send them to Baptist Headquarters, 603 South Wilmington Street, Raleigh, NC, 27601-2338, (919) 821-7466, (800) 639-GBSC, as soon as possible and before August 31, 2003, so that they may be included in our Annual Report.

We continue to support Shaw University, Shaw University Divinity School, Central Children's Home, Lott Carey, State Missions and other worthy causes. The GBSC has continued to assist the flood survivors in Eastern North Carolina. Our Princeville, NC subdivision, Phoenix Village, is on schedule. We have completed the infrastructure in Navassa, NC for flood survivors and mixed used development for the GBSC. We have staffed the J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly in Laurel Hill, NC. Also Scotland has completed putting water lines in Laurel Hill. We are also calling in all J. J. Johnson Pledges.

Our Convention staff has provided workshops, institutes and training sessions across the State. Our "special ministries": Health and Human Services, J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly, Adoption & Foster Care, The General Baptist Foundation, Inc., and Housing all have made significant contributions to our work. The President, Vice Presidents and Auxiliary presidents have labored in a spirit of unity. Many of our

General Baptist State Convention 2002-2003 Fiscal Year Ends August 31, 2003

"committees" were active in ministry. The GBSC has made a measurable difference in the lives of lost souls, high-risk health populations and deeply hurting people; however, we need your additional stewardship contributions for this fiscal year.

We realize that all of you have obligations and responsibilities in your own Churches and Associations. Our appeal

starts from the "bottom-up". If your Church or Association has not made ANY OR ONLY A MODEST STEWARDSHIP CONTRIBUTION to the

Your check will make a difference in the following areas:

- Home/State Missions • The Unified Program
- Princeville/Navassa/J.J. Johnson Projects •
- Central Children's Home •
- Lott Carey Ministry in Africa and abroad •
- General Baptist Field/Administrative Staff •

"work" of the GBSC this fiscal year please send your stewardship checks today. We will receive contributions and suggested quotas

from the Ushers, Congresses of Christian Education, Laymen's Leagues, the UNIFIED PROGRAM, designated gifts and worthy causes for the remain-

der of the fiscal year. Every stewardship contribution makes a difference, regardless of how large or small!

The greater the support we have for the causes of Kingdom Building the greater our witness as General Baptists. I, along with our Field Staff, will try to contact each Moderator and Pastor before the fiscal year's end. We depend on you for prayer and support. Your check will make a difference in the following areas: *Home/State Missions, The Unified Program, Princeville/Navassa/J.J. Johnson Projects, Central Children's Home, Lott Carey Ministry in Africa and abroad, General Baptist Field/Administrative Staff.*

Finally, President Charles T. Bullock, joins me in thanking you for your support and sacrifices this fiscal year. Many of you have gone the extra mile to support the "work". Please send your stewardship support before August 31, 2003.

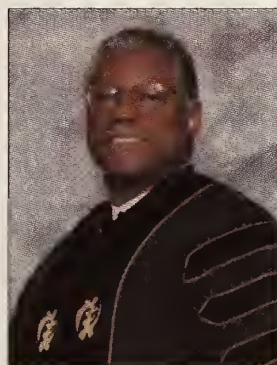
See SPECIAL FISCAL, Page 15

Dean of Shaw University Divinity School installed as pastor

In January, 2003, the New Bethel Baptist Church of Macon, NC voted unanimously to approve the recommendations of the Pastoral Search Committee to appoint Dr. James T. Roberson, Jr., Dean of Shaw University Divinity School, as Pastor of the New Bethel Baptist Church. Since January 2003, Dr. Roberson has been serving as Pastor Elect of New Bethel. Dr. Roberson will be installed as Pastor on Sunday, August 17, 2003. The church is planning a week of revival services (August 11-15) leading up to the installation. Persons performing the revival services will be:

Monday, August 11, 2003 – Dr. Charles Bullock, President of the General Baptist State Convention and Pastor of the Martin Street Baptist Church, Raleigh, NC

Tuesday, August 12, 2003 – Rev. Lacy Joyner, Moderator of the United Shiloh Baptist Association and Pastor of the First Baptist Church, Oxford, NC



Dr. James Roberson, Jr.

Baptist Church, Raleigh, NC

Thursday, August 14, 2003 – Dr. Moses Goldmon, SUDS Faculty and Pastor of the Faucette Memorial CME Church, Durham, NC

Friday, August 15, 2003 – Dr. William Thurston, Chair of Shaw University Religion and Philosophy Department and Pastor of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, Wendell, NC

Services for Sunday, August 17, 2003 will be held at 11:00 a.m. when

Wednesday, August 13, 2003 – Dr. Linda Bryan, Assistant Dean of Shaw University Divinity School and Associate Minister at Christian Faith

Rev. David Roberson, Pastor of New Hope Missionary Baptist Church of Southfield, MI, will be the morning speaker. The afternoon service, which will be the actual installation service will convene at 5:00 p.m. Dr. David Forbes, Pastor of the Christian Faith Baptist Church, Raleigh, NC will be the installation speaker. Commenting on the installation, Roberson said, "This installation is symbolic of the commitment Shaw University Divinity School has to keep the academy and the church closely connected. It is much easier to teach pastors if one has the experience of a pastor."

Since January 2000, Dr. Roberson has served as Dean of Shaw University Divinity School. During his tenure at Shaw University Divinity School, the school has started a second masters program and has initiated the Action Research Ministry Institute (ARMI)

See DEAN, Page 18

Our 136th Year • 1867 - 2003

From the Editor's Desk

By Rev. Dr. Terry Thomas, Editor

The Story of the Cracker Jack: Doing Just a Little Bit More

Within a few weeks our children will return to school. It goes without saying, our convention desires that our children through their educational experience acquire life equipping skills, complimented by sound character, that would make them marketable in the work force and in the different leadership arenas of our society. An unknown rabbi said, "He who does not teach his son a useful trade is bringing him up to be a thief." Rev. Dr. Marcus Ingram, pastor of the New Hope Missionary Baptist church in Apex, North Carolina and a retired educator in higher education, most recently North Central University, and the first African-American to receive a PHD in Marketing at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, maintains, "If you don't get some education no discrimination against you is necessary when it comes to your job. They only have to place the requirements there." Then what I might ask is, are we bringing up our children to be in society if we as a church in collaboration with the parents of our children are not involved and closely watching their educational experience? It must not be forgotten that the first exposure to some form of education for many of the African Americans during slavery and Reconstruction was in the Sunday School of the Black Church. In many places which barred the African-American children from the public school, the church hall became a makeshift classroom, with deacons and elders as the teachers of the three R's.² Even some of our more prestigious African-American universities began in the basements of African-American churches. Morehouse University was started in the basement of Springfield Baptist Church in Augusta in 1866. Spelman University started as a school in the basement of Friendship Baptist Church in Atlanta. Tuskegee University began as a school which met in the basement of Butler Chapel A.M.E. Church in Tuskegee, Alabama. Philip N. Henry informs in his book, *The Heritage of Blacks in North Carolina Volume 1, 1990*, that the African-American Baptist Churches in North Carolina were strongly interested in education, especially for developing church leadership and for the development of teachers. Our President is continuing in that tradition for one of his objectives is the promotion of not

only Christian education but also public education. Perhaps Benjamin Quarles was correct in his assessment of the Black Church. He contends that as a patron of schools, the Black Church performed one of its greatest services. The history of the Black Church commands that the Black Church be involved and a part of the educational development of our children.

"To the Jews, child-life was something particularly holy, and the duty of filling it with thoughts of God specially sacred." The educational experience of our children in my estimation falls in the category of something that is particularly holy because the developmental years of our children are irreplaceable. Therefore, the church should view its involvement in the educational experience of our children as their sacred duty to God. For that reason the focus of this article is to share a word of encouragement to our children as they wait to return to school with great anticipation using the history of Cracker Jacks.

Perhaps there are few people who grew up in the 60s, 70s, and 80s who do not know about Cracker Jacks. Some of my most thrilling times as a little boy was a treat to a box of Cracker Jacks. As I was searching for what to share at the "6th Annual Recognition & Achievement Day Program," at Piney Grove Missionary Baptist Church in Hillsborough, North Carolina; where the Rev. Ronnie L. Johnson is the pastor, I came across a story about Cracker Jacks in a book by Don Gabor entitled, *Big Things Happen When You Do the Little Things Right*. This is a great book I might add for a church to share with its youth in Youth Ministry. At any rate, after reading what Don Gabor wrote about the history of Cracker Jacks, it opened my eyes to the secret of those who receive or are given special recognition or presented the privilege to certain opportunities in life. The secret was not complex. It was simple, *willingness just to do a little bit more*. To see what I saw, let me share with you what I read. Don Gabor wrote:

Nearly everyone living in America has munched on Cracker Jacks, the candy-coated popcorn and peanut snack, but did not you ever wonder how it got to be so popular? It wasn't the only product of this kind on the market - in fact, far from it. By the early 1900s, there were more than one hundred brands of similar-tasting candy, including Yellow Kid, Honey Corn, Little Buster, and Razzle Dazzle, to

name just a few. Yet, after nearly a hundred years, only Cracker Jacks still satisfies millions of sweet tooths around the country, while the other brands have long disappeared. Why?

Did Cracker Jacks outlast the other brands of candy-coated popcorn and peanut because it tasted better? No. Cracker Jacks won the hearts of snack-food lovers because its inventor came up with an innovative marketing idea: He included a small prize in each box. The success story of the Cracker Jacks, like so many other success stories, hinged on a stroke of creativity that set this product from its competition.⁴

The stroke of creativity for the inventor of Cracker Jacks was simply to do just a little bit more. The inventor of Cracker Jacks did as all the other brands of candy-coated popcorn. He just did a little bit more. He added a tiny little prize in the box of his candy-coated popcorn. And in the words of Paul Harvey, "and now you know the rest of the story."

It must be conveyed to our children that special recognition and specially rare and limited opportunities are designed for those students in school who are willing to do just a little bit more. In the "6th Annual Recognition & Achievement Day Program," at the Piney Grove Baptist Church, special rewards were given only to those students in one form or another who had done just a little bit more. Blessings, unimaginable, are awaiting those who are willing to do just a little bit more. A perfect example of that in the Bible is what happened to Rebekah because of her willingness to do just a little bit more. Rebekah was selected to be the wife of Abraham's son Isaac. That was

such an honor for that meant Rebekah would be a part of the lineage through which the whole world would be blessed. However, that opportunity was presented to Rebekah when Abraham's eldest servant, Eliezer, saw Rebekah's willingness to do just a little bit more. The intent is not to make this into a sermon, but to see how the principle of doing just a little bit more impacted Rebekah's life, it is imperative that her story be briefly reviewed.

An account of that event is in Genesis 24:10-20. As custom demanded, it was the parents' responsibility to select a wife for their son. So Abraham sent Eliezer, his eldest servant to Mesopotamia, the home of his brother Nabor. When Eliezer made it to Mesopotamia, the time of the evening had come when the women went to the well to draw water. Eliezer prayed a prayer asking God for guidance in his selection of a wife for Isaac. The following is an excerpt from that prayer, "Behold, I stand here by the well of water; and the daughters of the men of the city come out to draw water. And let it come to pass, that the damsel to whom I shall say, 'Let down thy pitcher, I pray thee, that I may drink; and she shall say, Drink, and I will give thy camels drink also: let the same be she that thou hast appointed for thy servant Isaac; and thereby shall I know that thou hast showed kindness unto my master' (Genesis 24:13-14).

Eliezer's selection criteria for the woman he would choose to be the wife for Isaac was based upon the woman who would do just a little bit more. Rebekah, who is described as a woman

EDITOR, Cont'd Next Page

THE BAPTIST INFORMER

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THEME: "By the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness..." (II Corinthians 6:7)

of beauty and character, when she came to the well was approached by Eliezer for a drink of water. Now it was expected and required of Rebekah to be hospitable and kind to a stranger. So there was nothing really sensational nor distinct by responding to Eliezer's request for a drink of water. But when an offer was made to get water for Eliezer's ten camels, Rebekah had committed to doing just a little bit more. As an African-American preacher, my imagination pushes me to speculate on Eliezer's response to Rebekah's offer. I believe that Eliezer's heart leaped for joy, and then he said to himself, "Oh yes this is the one! Other women drawing water are beautiful and hospitable but this woman, although I do not know who she is, she is the one for my master's son because she was willing to do just a little bit more." The opportunity for Rebekah to be the wife of Abraham's son; Abraham, the father of faith, the person through which the whole earth would be blessed, was because she was willing to do just a little bit more.

There is no doubt in my mind that when our children return to school, they will do what is required of them. But I want them to remember is that special recognition and specially rare and limited opportunities are designed for those students in school who are willing to do just a little bit more. When the late Rev. Dr. Samuel Dewitt Proctor accepted his calling to the ministry, he was working at the Norfolk Navy Yard as a shipfitter's apprentice. Dr. Proctor had decided to enter into the government training school instead of returning to college at Virginia State. But as the call to the ministry intensified, Dr. Proctor states in his book, *The Substance of Things Hoped For*, that he put down his hammer and puncher and took off his apron and headed to the Labor Board to resign. As Dr. Proctor proceeded to resign a person by the name of Booker, a friend of his father, tried to prevent Dr. Proctor from resigning. Booker told Dr. Proctor, "You don't need to go to school to be a preacher. We have a fellow cooking in the commissary right now who's a preacher, and another one working in the coal yard. They never went to school."⁵ Dr. Proctor in response said to Booker, "I want to do it differently. I want to go to college and to the seminary. I want to give my best and be ready for any opportunity that comes."⁶ When you do just a little bit more, you will be ready for any opportunity that comes. You do not have to do a whole lot more. You've got to do just a little bit more. Figuratively speaking, you got to put oil

not only in your lamp, but you must do just a little bit more and put some oil in your vessel. I know that I am running out of space but three things I want our children to understand when they commit themselves to doing just a little bit more.

I. You Will Have To Do Some Things Alone

It is clear that when Rebekah came to the well she came alone. The Bible states in Matthew 7:13-14, "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." Do not expect your friends to hang with you when you commit to doing just a little bit more. Be prepared to read more than what is required of you alone. Be prepared to study an extra hour alone. Be prepared to think for yourself alone. Be prepared to go to the library alone. Perhaps Michael Jordan is the greatest basketball player to ever play the game, but I wonder how many hours Michael Jordan spent in the gym working on his basketball skills alone. There are some things in life that can only be accomplished alone. So if I am going to be committed to doing just a little bit more I must be prepared to do some things alone.

II. I Become a Source of Inspiration to Others

Perhaps the highlight of the "6th Annual Recognition & Achievement Day Program," was when a person by the name of Gloria Stewart Brooks was recognized for her accomplishments. Unrelenting applause flowed from the congregation when her name was called. See at the age of 50, Sister Brooks went back to school to obtain her High School Diploma. After the program, I talked to Sister Brooks to hear her story. In talking with her, she conveyed that she was inspired to go back to school after her son, at the age of 22, returned to school to get his High School Diploma. Sister Brooks told how her son said to her, "Momma why don't you try it. If I can do it you can." Being inspired by her son's willingness to do just a little bit more for his life, Sister Brooks, through the James Madison High School in Atlanta, Georgia, returned to school to earn her High School Diploma graduating with a 4.0 GPA. When we do just a little bit more, we become a source of inspiration to others. Others will be encouraged to what is expected when they see someone who is doing just a little bit more. My baby sister, who was three years old when our mother died, gradu-

ated this May with a PHD in Mechanical Engineering from Tuskegee University. During the pursuit of her degree she stayed with one of the older sisters in Tuskegee. The older sister said to me at the graduation, "Tonnia taught me how to study." Tonnia doing just a little bit more left a great impression on her sister. When you commit to doing just a little bit more, you will become a source of inspiration for others.

III. You Will Stand Out and be Recognized

What made Eliezer recognize Rebekah from the rest of the women who came to the well was her willingness to do just a little bit more. When you do a little bit more, it will not go unnoticed. People will look for you. Others will inquire of you when you do just a little bit more. Norman Vincent Peale shares a story in his book, *Positive Thinking*, about a man who moved from Italy who became president of a big hat manufacturing organization. When the person to whom Peale refers to as John M came to America, Peale helped him to get a job in a department store in New York city as a hat salesman. John, however, was not content with just trying to sell a hat to his customers which he was only hired to do; he also tried to sell two or three different outfits to them. Peale wrote this following comment in his book about John, "Naturally, a boy like John was noticed. He was different, and different people cannot help but be noticed. John was favorably noticed by the hat manufacturer. Result, he is today president of a big hat manufacturing organization."⁷ When you do a little bit more it will be noticed. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said in a speech to a group of students at Barratt Junior High School in Philadelphia on October 26, 1967, "If it falls your lot to be a street sweeper, sweep streets like Michelangelo painted pictures, sweep streets like Beethoven composed music, sweep streets like Leontyne Price sings before the Metropolitan Opera. Sweep streets like Shakespeare wrote poetry. Sweep streets so well that all the hosts of heaven and earth will have to pause and say (it will be noticed): Here lived a great street sweeper who swept his job well." Let's not forget what Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "If a man can write a better book or preach a better sermon or make a better mousetrap than his neighbor, even if he builds his house in the woods, the world will make a beaten path to his door."

There is a great lesson to be learned from the history of Cracker Jacks. Success is awaiting those who

are willing to do just a little bit more. Harry Emerson Fosdick says, "no man can be used by a great idea without becoming greater himself."⁸ My beloved African-American children, no one can do a little bit more without having a little bit more return to them.

But isn't that the characteristic of our God, doing more for us than we expect? The cup we bring for God to pour in, it runs over. The basket we bring for God to put our blessing, in spite of pressing those blessings down and shaking them together, the blessings still flow over. Even what God has awaiting us, is more than our minds can imagine. It says in the scripture, "But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him" (I Corinthians 2:9). We just ask to be saved, but God in saving us saves us to the upmost.

Then Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, has the only name by which humankind can be saved. That honor was bestowed upon him because throughout his life he was willing to do just a little bit more. People came to him just to be healed, but he did a little bit more. He made them whole. People just wanted their sins to be forgiven, but he did a little bit more. He washed away their sins. People just wanted to be loved and appreciated for what they did, but Jesus did a little bit more. He loved them unconditionally. And because Jesus committed his life to doing just a little bit more, we now sing, "All hail the pow'r of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall, Bring forth the royal diadem, And crown Him Lord of all."

¹Ralph Gower, *The New Manner and Customs of Bible Time* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1987), 79.

²Benjamin Quarles, *The Negro in the Making of America* (New York: MacMillan Publishing Company, 1987), 101.

³Alfred Edershem, *Sketches of Jewish Social Life* (Peabody, Massachusetts: Hendrickson Publishers, 1994), 126.

⁴Don Gabor, *Big Things Happen When You Do The Little Things Right* (New York: MJF Books, 1998), 101-102

⁵Samuel Dewitt Proctor, *The Substance of Things Hoped For* (New York: G. P. Putman's Son, 1995), 42.

⁶Ibid. 42.

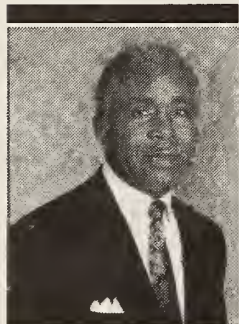
⁷Norman Vincent Peale, *Positive Thinking* (Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey: Prentice-Hall Inc, 1975), 174-175.

⁸Harry Emerson Fosdick, *Riverside Sermons* (New York: Harper & Brothers Publishers, 1958), 5.

By Charles T. Bullock,
President

Commissioned by God

"I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth" (Psalm 121:11-2).



Dr. Charles
Bullock

It was the late Dr. Samuel D. Proctor who (co-authored with Dr. Gardner C. Taylor the book entitled *We Have This Ministry*) said in the introduction to the book "Being appointed spiritual leader, under shepherd, and herald of the good news of the Son of God is an awesome commission from God." So it is. As pastors, under shepherds, and heralds of the Good News, we take this commission seriously.

We have been commissioned by God to take on this awesome responsibility "To Serve The Present Age" His calling to fulfill. "O may it all my powers engage to do my Master's will." In order to do the Master's will, I believe there should be much prayer for divine guidance as we engage in ministry for our Lord and Savior. Therefore, as we continue our journey together, we are faced with many opportunities, possibilities and challenges.

Because of this awesome commission from God and the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc., a Presidential Summit was called on Thursday, June 26, at the United Metropolitan Baptist Church, Winston-Salem, for the purpose of focusing our attention on pertinent convention issues. We are grateful for the pastors, moderators and auxiliary leaders who attended this summit. The High Point Association led the praise and worship and Dr. J. R. Samuels, Pastor of the St. Stephens Baptist Church, gave an inspi-

rationed devotional message. Some of the issues on the agenda to be discussed were the Unified Dollars and Designated Gifts, Reviving and Inviting Inactive Churches, The Personnel Committee Report, The Housing Committee Report and the appointment of committees.

The Report of the Housing Committee took priority over other issues and the majority of the time was devoted to discussions relative to housing. Dr. Archie Logan, Executive Secretary-Treasurer, was asked to give a more detailed report on receipts and expenditures in our next Executive Committee meeting scheduled for September 30.

The following committees were named, but officially appointed in the Executive Committee Meeting held at the First Cosmopolitan Baptist Church, Raleigh, on July 8. **The Task Force**

Committee is to address the Unified Program and evaluate the percentages allocated to convention objectives as well as other designated gifts that are not a part of the convention's objectives. The members are Dr. W. B. Lewis, Chairman, Dr. E. B. Turner, and Dr. C. R. Edwards, Dr. J. R. Manley, Dr. Clifford Jones, Dr. John Fuller and Dr. C. C. Craig. An **Accounting Committee** is to receive, count, and be responsible for deposits of all monies received at convention settings. The members are Rev. Theodore Breeden, Chairman, Rev. J. Vincent Terry, Rev. D. K. Ferguson, Rev. Larry Allen, Mrs. Mattie Murphy, Mrs. Doris Burke and Rev. Alexander Herring.

The Presidential Summit closed with a sermon by the pastor of the United Metropolitan Baptist Church, Dr. J. D. Ballard.

We are grateful to God and you for the continued commitment to His ministry through our convention.

UPCOMING SESSIONS

October 26-30, 2003

GBSC Annual Session

Ebenezer Baptist Church, 2020 W. Sugar Creek Rd., Charlotte, NC
Host Pastor: Leonzo Lynch, 704-598-2219

Martin Street Baptist Church

Serving God and Men, Through Jesus Christ, Our Lord and Savior Since 1869

1001 East Martin Street • Raleigh, NC 27601

• Dr. Charles T. Bullock, Pastor •

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

Worship Service 11:00 a.m.

Friday Noon Hour Prayer
Each Friday in the church sanctuary



Dr. Charles T. Bullock

"...Could you not wait with me one hour,?" Matt 26:40 (NKJV)

◆ The Evangelism Team ministers to the homeless and serves breakfast at the Wilmington Street Shelter on the 2nd and 4th Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

◆ Radio Ministry
Our worship services are broadcast on station WCLY 1550 AM, Raleigh, on Wednesday from 12:30 - 1:00 p.m. and on Sundays from 4:30 - 5:00 p.m.

PROGRESSIVE NATIONAL BAPTIST CONVENTION, INC.

DR. MAJOR J. JEMISON, PRESIDENT

42nd Annual Session

Charlotte Convention Center • Charlotte, North Carolina

August 3 - 8, 2003

- Host Church: Mayfield Memorial Baptist Church
- Host Pastor: Dr. Harold Diggs

PROGRESSIVE PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

MONDAY August 4 Welcome Program.....6:30 p.m.
Charlotte Convention Center
GBSC Moderators, Officers

MONDAY August 4 MUSICAL \$10.00

TUESDAY August 5 Education Banquet.....7:00 p.m.
The Honorable William Gray
Black Tie \$85.00
Charlotte Convention Center

THURSDAY August 7 President's Night.....7:00 p.m.
Dr. Major Jemison
Charlotte Convention Center

FRIDAY August 8 Freedom Night.....7:30 p.m.
The Honorable Vernon Jordon
Charlotte Convention Center

SPECIAL HOUSING PROJECT • HABITAT HOUSE • AUGUST 6-8

Proposed General Board Conflict of Interest & Confidentiality Policy

By Dr. John H. Grant
Vice President At Large



Dr. John H.
Grant

Real or perceived (the appearance of) conflicts must be avoided, since they can cause significant damage to the Convention's reputation and well-being. Some of the clearest and

most serious conflicts of interest occur

• When a board member receives an inappropriate financial gain resulting from association with the organization. This type of conflict is known as *private inurement*.

Examples include a board member renting space that he or she owns to the organization at more than fair market value.

• When a board member is involved with a competing organization, either for profit or nonprofit. It is a clear breach of fiduciary responsibility for a board member to intentionally, or even accidentally, convey confidential information to such an organization. If a situation presents the possibility that this might occur, the board member should resign one of the board positions.¹

1. I shall identify areas of potential conflict and avoid any areas of impropriety, including making full disclosure of any potential conflict of interest, and adhering to this Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality Statement by abstaining and physically removing myself from any and all discussions where such a

conflict may arise.

2. I shall understand that confidentiality with respect to all aspects of the organization's actions, the actions of the Board of Directors and the actions of the staff of the organization, are necessary components for efficient and productive operation of the goals and objectives of the organization; and further, that I shall refrain from any actions which may lead to the dissemination of such internal information, including but not limited to, seeking advice from a trusted colleague, gossip and the misplacement of Board and organizational material.

3. I shall not accept any employment, perform any consulting duties, or engage in any activities (whether paid or unpaid) which conflict with the business interests of the Convention.

4. I understand that this Conflict of

Interest and Confidentiality Statement is a condition of my board position with the Convention, and that failure to comply with the same shall be just cause for disciplinary action by the Convention's General Board, including but not limited to my termination/dismissal as a board member of the Convention.

(Print Name)

Signature & Date

¹ Andrew S. Lang, *Financial Responsibilities of Nonprofit Boards, Governance 2 Series* (BoardSource), 2003, p. 7.

By Dr. Howard W. Parker, Jr.
First Vice President

As many of you know, last month I began a series of articles that offers more



Dr. Howard
Parker, Jr.

information regarding the associations of our convention, that have associational headquarters facilities. Last month Trent River Oakey Grove Association Headquarters Building in Jacksonville was highlighted.

Again, I am asking all Moderators

with associational headquarter facilities to please send detailed information to me so that we may spotlight your association.

Until the information requested above is received, I wanted to introduce to some and present to many in the GBSC two individuals who are Missionary Baptist and members of our State Convention.

Congressman Frank W. Ballance, Jr. was elected November 2002 to serve his first term in the United States Congress. He represents the First Congressional District of



Congressman Ballance

North Carolina, which consists of all or part of 23 mostly rural counties in eastern and northeastern North Carolina.

Congressman Ballance is a native of Bertie County and resides in Warrenton. He is a graduate of North Carolina Central University with an Undergraduate and Law Degree.

He was elected in 1982 to serve in the North Carolina House of Representatives, and in 1988 he was elected to the NC Senate representing the 2nd Senatorial District, consisting of Gates, Hertford, Northampton and Warren Counties, as well as parts of Bertie, Halifax and Vance Counties.

He is a member of the Greenwood Baptist Church in Warrenton where he serves as Chairman of the Board of Deacons.

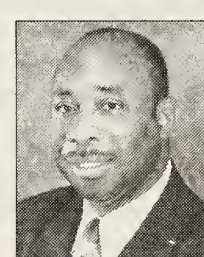
Congressman Ballance was elected as President of the Democratic Freshman Class of the 108th Congress and serves on the House Agriculture Committee and the Subcommittees on Department Operations, Oversight and Forestry; and Conservation Credit, Rural Development and Research. The Congressman also serves on the House Small Business Committee and the Subcommittees of Rural Enterprises, Agriculture and Technology, and Tax, Finance and Exports.

Dr. Robert L. Holloman was elected in November 2002 to the 4th Senatorial District of North Carolina, which covers Gates, Halifax, Hertford, Northampton, Vance and Warren Counties.

Doctor Holloman received a Bachelor of Theology Degree from Shaw

University Divinity School in Raleigh, Florida College and Seminary, Orlando, FL, Liberty University, Lynchburg, VA, and an Honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree from Florida College and Seminary.

Reverend Holloman is the Pastor of the Nebo Missionary Baptist Church of



Dr. Robert Holloman

Murfreesboro and Moderator of the Northampton County Missionary Baptist Association.

His professional background was serving as a Regional Manager of the North Carolina

Division of Victim and Justice Services of the Department of Crime Control and Public Safety. He has also served as a County Commissioner of Hertford County.

Senator Holloman serves on the following Senate Committees: Vice-Chair Subcommittee on Appropriations on Justice & Public Safety, Agriculture/Environment/Natural Resources, Appropriations/Base Budget, Education/Higher Education, Information Technology, Judiciary II, Pensions & Retirement.

On behalf of our President, Dr. Charles T. Bullock, and our Executive Secretary-Treasurer, Dr. Archie D. Logan, Jr., we extend our congratulations to Congressman Ballance and Senator Holloman. We ask the members of GBSC, as well as Christians everywhere, to lift up all elected officials in fervent prayer as they strive to make this state, as well as this world, a better place for all God's children.

ECCLESIASTES 3:4 "... AND A TIME TO LAUGH..."



Minister Alcindor Hankins
Gospel Comedian
405 Creekbluff Drive
Fuquay-Varina, North Carolina 27526
(919) 557-1227

*Psalms 46:10 "Be Still and Know That I am God"
He's More God Than I Ever Need"*

Second Vice-President

By Rev. Nilous M. Avery, II - M. Div.
2nd Vice-President

To the General Baptist family, "to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called



Rev. Nilous
Avery, II

to be holy, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ - Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 1:2-3, NIV).

WWJD? What would Jesus do? This phrase became both popular and profitable. Bracelets, clothing, trinkets, books, etc. have all become a major enterprise in the world today. The life of Jesus, the Savior of the world, has been commercialized and dramatized in many forms on the stage, screen, and at the checkout counter. Jesus, the one who said, "I am meek and lowly in heart" has become a major box-office draw.

Now this is not all bad. For instance, all this attention has caused some individuals to view the historical Jesus as a real person who actually lived. Yet, the danger exists in that the real message, ministry, and mission of Jesus may be hidden behind the commercialism. The world must understand what true believers already confess and profess: Jesus is the world's Savior. To think of Him in any other way is to demote Him from His

rightful position as the Son of God.

Jesus is not a superstar. He is the world's Savior. The role of a superstar is to entertain. We then become spectators who watch and enjoy their performances. Jesus Christ is the "Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29, NIV). Therefore, Jesus is not an entertainment icon and we are not spectators. He is our Savior and we must become involved in His mission and ministry. We do not look to Jesus for entertainment; we look to Him for eternal life. We do not look to Jesus to enjoy His performance; we seek His pardon, peace, power, presence, and provision.

And because Jesus is our Savior rather than our entertainer, we must obey Him. Instead of a standing ovation, we must be committed to giving Him our heart's devotion. We must move from:

- tradition to transformation ...
- from worry to worship ...
- from thrilling the masses to reaching the masses ...
- from meetings to ministry ...
- from satisfying the present age to serving the present age.

We must respond to Jesus' marching orders: "Do you love me, ... FEED MY SHEEP...FEED MY LAMBS...FEED MY SHEEP!" (from John 21:15-17).

The Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Convention is serving as an exemplary testimony to this form of practical ministry. During its August 2003 106th Annual Session, the Lott Carey Convention will reach out in service to homeless communities in Louisville, KY through two events.

How Much Exposure is Given to a \$20 Bill vs a \$1 Bill?

There was this \$20 dollar bill and a \$1 dollar bill on the conveyor belt at the downtown Federal Reserve Building. As they were laying there side by side the \$1 dollar bill said to the \$20 dollar bill, "Hey mannnnnn, where have you been?? I haven't seen you in a long time?" The \$20 dollar bill replied, "Man I have been having a ball!! I've been traveling to distant countries, going to the finest restaurants, to the biggest and best casinos, numerous boutiques, the mall uptown, the mall downtown, the mall across town, and even a mall that I just newly built. In fact, just this week I've been to Europe, a professional NBA game, Rodeo Drive, the all-day Retreat spa, the topnotch hair



salon, and the new casino!! I have done it all!!!"

After describing his great travels, the \$20 dollar bill asked the \$1 dollar bill, "What about you? Where have you been?" The \$1 dollar replied, "Well, I've been to the Baptist church, the Methodist church, the Presbyterian church, the Episcopal church, the Church of God in Christ, the Catholic church, the Mormon church, the church of Latter Day Saints, the A.M.E. church, the Disciple of Christ church, the ..."

"WAIT A MINUTE! WAIT-A-MINUTE!!", shouted the \$20 dollar bill to the \$1

PREACHER'S HOOPER SERMON REPORT 2003

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Dr. Ricky R. Eason Sr. - 139 Sawyer Rd., Roebuck, SC 29376

Ph. (864) 576-4961

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01. Your Anchor Holds And Grips The Solid Rock
02. You Got The Right One Baby / Doing The Thing Right
03. God Said It, I Believe And That Settles It / It All Adds Up
04. Burn Up Or Burn Out For God
05. Busted Britches From Straddling The Fence
06. Dangerous Minds
07. Don't Even Think About It
08. Fired Up By The Holy Ghost
09. Are You Full Of The Stuff
10. Let's Get On Board
11. God Picked Me To Be On His Side
12. Grace On The Race
13. Grow Up Or Blow Up
14. Hang In There
15. He Lifted Me Up Out Of The Miry Clay
16. Look Where The Lord Has Brought Me From
17. If My People
18. We Can Do It For A New Day Has Come
19. I Know What Prayer Can Do
20. Put Some Clothes On Child
21. A Right Thing In A Wrong Time
22. The Man Who Had Everything But The Right Thing
23. Soap For The Soul
24. Stay On The Lord's Side
25. If You Take One Step He'll Take Two
26. Stepping In Your Own Mess
27. I Can't Lose With The Stuff I Use
28. You Can't Touch This
29. Warm In A Cold Situation
30. That's The Way He Died But That's Not The End Of The Story
31. What You See Is What You Get
32. What's Faith Got To Do With It
33. You Can't Make It Without God
34. I Just Want To Say... "Thank You Lord"
35. A Heart Like Thine
36. Just A Closer Walk With Thee
37. Give Me A Clean Heart So I Can Serve You
38. What Ever The Problem God Has The Answer
39. Peace - In The Midst Of My Storm
40. I Am On The Right Road, Now!
41. A Good Man In A Bad Situation
42. Good Medicine For A Bad Ailment
43. Stand Up And Testify
44. Bad Boys! What You're Going To Do When He Comes For You
45. Angels Just Keep Watching Over Me
46. Go Ahead! Make My Day
47. A Trip To The Cross
48. Jesus! Jesus! Jesus! He Is Somebody's Preacher

49. On The Day Of Pentecost
50. Jesus Is All That! And A Whole Lot More
51. Muddy Putty In The Potter's Hands
52. When Stress Controls You Jesus Consoles You
53. Black Men And Women, Young And Old, Changing A Generation
54. I Am Black But I Am Somebody
55. Staying Afloat In A Sinking Boat
56. He That Has A Friend Must Show Himself Friendly
57. Victory Is Mine
58. Occupy Till I Come
59. A Man On A Mission / The Borrowed Ax
60. Busy In God's Business
61. That's Just Like Mama
62. He's Alive And I Am Glad About It
63. What The World Needs Now Is Love Sweet Love
64. I Moved From My Old House And My Old Friends
65. I Just Want To Know Why
66. What Do You Do When Life Is Not Fair
67. Why Do Bad Things Happen To Good People
68. What Do You Do When Your Brook Runs Dry
69. Diagnosis From Dr. Jesus, Go And See The Dr.
70. Who Is This Man
71. What Would Jesus Do
72. If I Could But Touch The Hem Of His Garment
73. Come See A Man
- Twenty-One (21) New Sermons**
74. Wounded By The Ones You Love
75. How To Stand In The Storms Of Life
76. Don't Quit
77. Speak To Me Lord Jesus
78. Get Behind Me Satan
79. Good Things Happen When Jesus Shows Up
80. Where Are You? Adam
81. Committed Because I Am Submitted
82. Are You A Disciplined Disciple
83. Answering God's Call
84. Too Blessed To Be Stressed
85. Thrilled By His Will
86. These Things Only Come By Prayer And Fasting
87. Just Like Daddy
88. I Got Two Wings And The World Can't Do Me No Harm
89. The Prayer Of Jabez
90. I Will Meet You On The Other Side
91. Can't Come Right Now, I Am On Duty
92. What A Mighty God We Serve
93. When Life Makes You Wonder
94. Fighting The Good Fight

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Gratitude!

By Executive Secretary-Treasurer Brodie

What a wonderful time in the Lord did we have during our 119th Annual Session held in Winston-Salem. We are



Dr. Priscilla Brodie

of God).

To Reverend Nilous Avery, II, Mt. Zion, and other persons of Salisbury who helped to host this session, we express our gratitude.

The given progress financial report for the first ten months of the 2002-2003 fiscal year showed that approximately the amount of **\$501,487.23** has been received

toward the missions budget of **\$806,055.00**. A balance of approximately **\$304,567.77** is needed to realize the funds for the objectives with whom we share this fiscal year, ending August 31, 2003. **Checks/money orders for the Woman's Convention should be made payable to the Woman's Baptist State Convention or Woman's Baptist Home & Foreign Missionary Convention and sent to the Woman's Baptist State Convention, P. O. Box 1818, Raleigh, NC 27602.**

Our fiscal year ends August 31, 2003; let us churches send quotas and all Unions, Auxiliaries, Districts send other monies to the Executive Office of the Woman's Convention before this time. In order to help us meet the needed State Missions section of our 2002-2003 Budget, please give 25% to 50% more than your designated quota or intended gift for the cause of missions. State Missions include retreats, conferences, camp, workshops, books and supplies, office equipment, transportation, affiliations, computer ministry, publications/printing, office operation, salaries and contractual services, seasonal assistance, scholarships, Executive and officers expenses, institutes, annual session and One Day Session, postage.

FAMILY MISSIONS CONFERENCE

Reverend Osco Gardin and Elizabeth Baptist Church, Maurice Street, Monroe, will serve as hosts to the Annual Family Missions Conference on Saturday, September 27, 2003, beginning at 9:00 a.m. Concurrent sessions are planned for Seniors, Young Adults and Youth.

Following the concurrent sessions will be a joint worship session.

Families who complete the Family Study Guide during August (Family Month) and attend this Conference will receive certificates. These guides were distributed at the Annual Session by the Christian Family Ministries Committee of the Woman's Convention.

All families across the State are invited to attend and share in this Conference, and to bring their Bibles and a sacrificial offering. Envelopes will be available for each family or family organization's offering; the offering will be credited to the contribution of the family's church to the Woman's Convention.

Directions to Elizabeth Baptist Church - Coming from Rocky Mount:



Dr. Julius McDonald

Take US-64 West; continue on US-64 West/US-64 East; continue on New Bern Avenue; take the I-440 North ramp towards Outer Beltline/Wake Forest; merge on I-440 West; continue on I-440 West; continue on I-440 South; continue on US-1 South; continue on US-1 South/US-64 West; continue on US-1BYP South/US-1 South/US 15-501 South; continue on US-1 South/US-1 South; continue on North Walnut Street; continue on South Walnut Street; continue on US-1 South/US 220 South; Continue US-1 South; continue on US-1 South/US-1 South; turn right on US-74 West; continue on US 52/US-74 West; continue on US-74 West; continue on US-74 West/US-74 East; continue East Marshville Blvd.; continue on West Marshville; continue on US-74 West/US-74 East; continue on Monroe Street; continue on US-74 West/US-74 East; continue on East US-74; continue on East Roosevelt Blvd.; turn left on East Franklin Street; turn left on Hough Street; turn right on East Hudson Street.

Directions - Coming from

Charlotte:

Start on US-74 East (NC-27); continue towards US-74 East; continue towards NC-200 South/US-601 North; turn right on Skyway Drive; continue on N. Hayne Street; continue on S. Hayne Street; turn left on East Hudson Street.

"... Check and make sure the road still exists ... This is only to be used as an aid in planning."

The Nehemiah Prayer Chain

of the
Woman's Baptist Home &
Foreign Missionary Convention
North Carolina, Auxiliary to GBSC



Enlistment Form

The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord; but the prayer of the upright is his delight. (Proverbs 15:8)

Confess your faults to one another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. (James 5:16)

Name _____
(Organization or Individual)

Mailing Address _____

Telephone Number _____

E-Mail _____

District _____ Group _____

Department _____
(Senior, Young, Adult, or Youth)

Chairperson - Mr. Robbie Diggs

Co-Chairperson - Mrs. Colene Stanley

(Please return to the Office within seven (7) days)
Woman's State Baptist Convention

General Baptist Bookstore Update

Greetings!

The General Baptist State Convention
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Submitted by Dianne Newell
President Congress of Christian Education

Reaching Youth for Christ

Reaching Youth for Christ by continuing and expanding our **Youth Oratorical Conference**. – Proverbs 22:6 KJV

This year marked the fourth year our Youth Oratorical Conference has been held on the college campus of one of our historically Black colleges, Shaw



Diane Newell

University in Raleigh, North Carolina. I commend the Youth Department leaders, Ms. Lula Gainey, Supervisor; Ms. Alberta Moore, Oratorical Director; Mrs. Constance Finch,

Assistant Oratorical Director and Mrs. Delores Redmon, 4th Vice President, for their outstanding service in carrying out the duties and responsibilities of good servant leadership. Congratulations to all the Oratorical participants for taking the challenge to serve the Lord through your gifts of speaking, and letting the world see your "Little Light Shine". Moderators, Pastors, Parents, Chaperones and Coaches, continue to create and support opportunities for your young people to learn, share and grow in the Christian faith.

PREPARATORY DIVISION

1st Place: Contestant #10 – Akasha Johnson, Score: 94.666; Topic: Letting

My Little Light Shine; Association: Rowan; Moderator: Rev. Paul Lowe, Winston-Salem, NC.
2nd Place: Contestant #12 – Alexis Davis, Score: 94.333; Topic: Letting My Little Light Shine; Association: Wake; Moderator: Dr. Paul Anderson, Raleigh, NC.

3rd Place: Contestant #5 – Keaghan Simmons, Score: 92.666; Topic: The Courage To Say No; Association: Mecklenburg; Moderator: Rev. Norman E. Kerry, Charlotte, NC.

SENIOR DIVISION

1st Place: Contestant #3 – Jason Ellis, Score: 95.66; Topic: Risky Business; Association: Mecklenburg; Moderator: Rev. Norman E. Kerry, Charlotte, NC.

2nd Place: Contestant #9 – Dannel Harrison, Score: 93; Topic: The Stoplights of Life; Association: Cedar Grove; Moderator: Rev. Darwin L. Howard, Oxford, NC.

3rd Place: Contestant #7 – Marcus Halley, Score: 87.66; Topic: Risky Business; Association: Gaston County; Moderator: Rev. Darial A. Jackson.

JUNIOR DIVISION

1st Place: Contestant #15 – Mia Underwood, Score: 93; Topic: Faith; Association: Western Union; Moderator: Rev. M. T. Clowney, Clinton, NC.

2nd Place: Contestant #17 – Latoya Cade, Score: 91; Topic: Faith; Association: Wake; Moderator: Dr. Paul Anderson, Raleigh, NC.

3rd Place: Contestant #8 – Latera Pruden, Score: 87.66; Topic: It's What's Inside That Counts; Association: Old Eastern; Moderator: Rev. Charles D. Bell, Jacksonville, NC.

The culminating event of our Youth Oratorical Conference was the Awards Ceremony held on Saturday, June 28, 2003. We were delighted to have one of our own, Attorney Winston Rozier, Jr., Assistant District Attorney, Wake County Courthouse, as our guest speaker.

Attorney Rozier grew up through the Woman's Auxiliary where he served as 3rd Vice President and Worship Chairperson of the Youth Department. How fitting it was to have him as our speaker, for he also was a former oratorical contest participant.

ABOUT OUR SPEAKER

VINSTON MILLER ROZIER, JR.

- Grew up in the Tobemory area of Bladen County, where he attended the Second New Light Missionary Baptist Church.

- Graduated from Tar Heel Middle – Senior High School in 1994 where he was the valedictorian.

- Attended University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill after being awarded the Joseph Pogue full academic scholarship to UNC-CH. Vince Rozier graduated from Carolina in 1998 with a B.A. Degree in Political Science.

- From 1997 – 2001: **Head Varsity Basketball Coach** at Carolina Friends

School (Hillsborough, NC) where he was named Conference Varsity Boys Basketball Coach of the Year.

- In the Fall of 1998 he entered North Carolina Central University School of Law and graduated in 2001.

- Currently, **Assistant District Attorney**, Wake County District Attorney's Office.

- Former Oratorical Contest Participant and Former Worship Chairperson and 3rd Vice President of the Woman's Auxiliary of the General Baptist State Convention Youth Department.

Honors: UNC 1997 Homecoming King Woman's Auxiliary of the General Baptist State Convention Young Adult Scholarship

Current Activities:

Volunteer – Teen Court Program for Wake County Youth

Board Member – Wake County Juvenile Drug Treatment Court

Board Member – Young Democrats of Wake County

Vice Chair – Wake County Democratic Party Board of Officers

Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity

Son of Rev. Winston Rozier, Sr. and Lynne Rozier who reside in Tobemory

As of September 28, 2002, married to Dekhasta Becton Rozier of Raleigh, NC.

Join us for a blessed time
in the Lord!



Dr. James F. Linville
Pastor

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Church conflict issues

Submitted By Portia Brandon, M.Div.
Christian Education Coordinator

FINANCIAL ISSUES

Utilizing missions funds differently than promised.

Allowing a receipt for tax deduction for personal gift received.
Reporting personal miles driven as church use, or accepting mileage expense for a speaking engagement, which provided an honorarium.



Portia
Brandon

Using office supplies/machines (phone) for personal purposes.
Charging books (etc.) on the church account without agreement.
Using church's tax exempt number for personal items.
Using the church van for personal purposes.
Enrolling children in church school and not paying tuition.
Expecting businessmen in the congregation to provide goods and services free.
Raising money for a building program, which is never undertaken.
Receiving a love offering for a guest singer or musicians and not turning over to them the entire amount.
Treating church employees as "independent contractors".
Involvement in Network Marketing to supplement your income while on full time salary.
Allowing decisions to be influenced by the one member who pays the most tithes.

PROGRAM ISSUES

Inflating figures on the monthly report to the Denomination.
Advertising your church as a "Friendly" church when in fact no one greets visitors.
Lip syncing music without acknowledging what you're doing.
Advertise a "free" concert, and then take up an offering.
Omitting the notice that the music will be "Gospel".
Invite young men to play basketball at the church but don't tell them there will be preaching during half time.
Tell people you're taking a poll, when in fact you're seeking an opportunity to "witness".
Understating the difficulty of teach-

ing the junior boys S.S. class.

Change the date on board meeting minutes so that the housing allowance decision appears to have been made prior to the beginning of the year.

PROCEDURAL ISSUES

Providing a tainted reference for Bible College/Ministry credential.
An Assistant criticizing the Pastor to a deacon.
Bad-mouthing a neighboring pastor.
Taking off unauthorized days.
Candidating while on a declared vacation.
Performing a wedding for a previously married member because the family is one of the main families in the church.
Conducting a Baby Dedication for parents who are not Christian, for the sake of the grandparents.

MISCELLANEOUS ISSUES

Exhorting members to spend an hour in prayer each day, inferring that's what you do, when you don't.
Declaring that you spend mornings in prayer and study when in fact you often use that time for personal errands and family time.
Quoting from others in sermons or publications without crediting the author or owner.
Telling the story differently to increase the humor.
Promising to pray for someone's need, and not following through.
Saying you're going visiting when you actually are bowling.

Sometimes conflict spreads to the point of consuming the energies of the whole church. Conflict specialists have identified recognizable phases of the progression of conflict in an organization: By Larry Shallenberger

Phase One: Sparks

- People have minor disagreements over their goals, needs, perspectives, value, methods, or interests.
- People can still be led to work through their disagreements by acceptance, approval, or appreciation.
- People express disagreements through minor power plays.

Interventions

- Never allow the growth of the church to shift emphasis away from the value of the individual. When 10 to 15 percent feel "used" for the cause, the organization will move to phase two.
- Hold leadership retreats for spiritual and relational development.
- Promptly respond to complaints. Things seldom right themselves.
- Review the church master plan annual-

ly with the church to keep ownership high.

Phase Two: Sparks Igniting the Storm

- People become uneasy with each other because of perceived unfairness.
- Diversity is despised and not affirmed.
- Discussions reinforce their positions.
- The groups discuss strategy to handle future meetings.
- Opposition is depersonalized by characterization.
- Concern for personal image heightens.

Interventions

- Reject a wait-and-see attitude.
- Acknowledge there's a problem and call for prayer and fasting.
- Hold spiritual life meetings with a neutral visiting speaker.
- Exercise church discipline when appropriate.
- Involve neutral mediators to settle the disturbance.

Phase Three: Firestorm in Full Fury

- Slander is the common form of communication.
- People become identified with strong positions.
- Leaders emerge on each side.
- Organizational structure is used as a weapon. The constitution and bylaws are used to leverage positions.
- Each side believes they understand the other's wrong motives.
- The pastor is usually in a no-win position and has a 50-50 chance of weathering the conflict.

Interventions

- Hire a crisis management consultant.
- Prayerfully determine if there's an evil core to the conflict, and start church discipline.
- Balance grace and justice.
- Consult a Christian attorney to make sure that issues are handled in a way that doesn't provoke a lawsuit.
- Be decisive.

Phase Four: Consuming Winds

- The conflict has spread to 10 percent of the leadership and 20 percent of the body.
- Facts are hard to find. Arguments are emotion-based.
- Fighting is seen as the only option because neither side believes the other is capable of change.
- A subgroup's power is seen as more valuable than the entire organization.
- The reputation of the church is damaged in the community.

- Prayer and Scripture are used to justify personal ideologies.
- Revival and spiritual warfare are talked about in a quick fix manner.
- Board members improperly use church discipline.

Interventions

- Work closely with the consultant.
- Teach solid biblical truths on spiritual warfare.
- Don't allow Scripture to be used as a

weapon.

- Minister to the faithful who aren't involved in the controversy. Don't allow them to be neglected.
- Don't let the conflict become the-pulpit theme.
- Call the congregation to prayer and fasting. Don't divulge sensitive information but get the church involved.
- Whether it's best to stay or leave. Sometimes parting is best for all parties.

Phase Five: The Final Burn

- Conflict may lead to litigation.
- The object now is to discredit and destroy. Winning is no longer enough.
- The church has moved from mediation to arbitration.
- An outside party officiates the dismantling of the organization.

Interventions

- Set up task forces to discover the complexities of each group's complaints. Make the complexity apparent to all in order to avoid simplistic thinking.
- Hire a neutral party to do a fact-finding procedure. When people feel heard, it bleeds out the emotional tension.
- Refocus the church's efforts on problem solving.
- Don't hesitate to eliminate non-functioning ministries or sell excess property. Preserve potential resources for future ministry.

Phase Six: Rebuilding on Burnt Timber

- One group may start a new church, while other people scatter to other churches.
- Some people (often the youth of the families involved) are lost to the faith due to bitterness.
- A faithful remnant will remain with the property and the ministry as it either dies or struggles with minimal effectiveness for years.
- Resentment lingers between those who departed and those who stayed.
- With proper leadership and time, the church can emerge.

Interventions

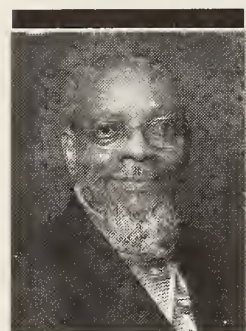
- If the pastor resigns, hire a trained interim pastor to prevent the cycle from repeating itself.
- Invite a speaker to speak to your remnant on themes of unconditional love, forgiveness, and unity.

The Six Most Predictable Times of Church Conflict

1. Stewardship Campaigns/Budget Time
2. Addition of New Staff
3. Introduction of Baby Boomers into the Church
4. The Completion of a New Building
5. Loss of Church Membership
6. Increase in Church Membership

Giving thanks

Submitted by Deacon John Gladden



Deacon John Gladden

Giving thanks to our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ, who is the head of my life, and to President Dr. Bullock of the General Baptist State Convention, Dr. Archie D. Logan, Executive Secretary-Treasurer, and to all vice presidents and auxiliary heads and to my pastor and you, my brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus Christ. How good it is to be here.

The Laymen of the GBSC are growing and doing great things in leading men and boys to Christ. Just this past week we had four days of men and boys retreat at the Baptist campsite. Next month we will have our Scout camporee at JJ Johnson Campsite. We are looking for your Scouts to be there.

September, we will have our men's retreat at the campsite. Plus on September 19, 20, 21 we are planning to go to Memphis, TN to the National Laymen Southern Workshop. The price for lodging at the Holiday Inn for three days plus meals is only \$95.00. That includes your banquet ticket with two people in a room. We are looking to get a bus to start in Wilmington, picking up along the way to Memphis. We will know the price of transportation as soon as we find out how many people are going. We need some ministers to make the trip with us. Women and children are welcome to join us on this trip. We have laymen from NC that I have placed on program there in Memphis, TN. So help us to fill this 55-passenger bus. We thank you for your support in advance.

We are here to serve the present age, because we have a calling to fulfill. To God be the glory. Just for a few minutes, I would like to talk about this subject.

Waking up and going to work to serve this present age – let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in thy sight,

oh Lord and Savior. We as black men have laid down and gone to sleep on God and left the fields with plenty to be harvested. We must wake up and go out into the vineyard and work to serve this present age. We have slept too long and the work has piled up. Men, we must take the lead. Proverbs 16:3 says "Commit thy works unto the Lord and thy thoughts shall be established". God wants us to be committed to do His works; therefore we must wake up, go to work to serve this present age.

We cannot afford to say "Let John do it", and John say "Let Joe do it", and Joe say "Let James do it." You see at the end no one does it because John thought Joe did it and Joe thought James did it and James forgot to do it. Well who did it? We cannot afford to say someone else will do it when we can do it ourselves. That is why so much work for God has been left undone. So let us wake up and serve this present age. There is more to work than just coming to church on Sunday and prayer meeting three times a year just to testify. God's work is a 24-7 project and 365 days a year – our work is never done.

Matthew 21:28-31 says "But what think ye? A certain man had two sons, and he came to the first and said, So go work today in my vineyard. He answered and said, I will not. Afterward he repented and went, and he came to the second and said likewise. And he answered and said, I will go sir and went not. Wether of the twain did the will of his father? They say unto him, the first. Jesus saith unto them verily I say unto you that the publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you." So let us wake up and work to serve this present age.

Yesterday is past and gone, and tomorrow may never be. But I say unto you, let us get out of this rut that we are in and brush ourselves off, and do God's will. You see when this life is over, I want to put on my wings and fly away to meet my Lord and Savior. I don't want to be like a mole and dig a hole in the ground. We must be like the ant. The ant is a wise and diligent insect. It is always busy. There are no lazy ants. In Proverbs 6:6-11 says, "Go to the ant, thou sluggard, consider her ways and be wise, which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, provideth her meat in the summer, and gathered her food in the harvest. How long wilt thou sleep,

o sluggard? When wilt thou arise out of thy sleep?" This tells us that we must get busy because our sleeping days are over. Let us wake up and go to work for God. Our young ones need someone to look up to. Some of our problems are, or should I say most of our problems are, we don't like to follow. We want to lead, and if we can't lead, we will lay down and go to sleep on God. Let us work while it is yet day, for when night cometh no man can work.

1st Corinthians 3:13-15 – "Every man's work shall be made manifest, for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire, and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss; but he himself shall be saved, yet so as by fire."

When a task is put before us, let us do our very best to try and do it. If we put God in front and trust in Him, all things are possible. There is nothing we cannot do with God, but without Him we can do nothing. Wake up, laborers of Christ, arise and gird you for the toil. The dew of promise from the skies already cheers the soil. As Revelation 14:13 says "And I heard a voice from Heaven saying unto me, write blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth. Yea, saith the spirit, that they may rest from their labours, and their works do follow them.

I pray that all of us will wake up and go to work and serve this present age for the Master. Don't let the sun go down on us and our work is undone, for when night comes, no man can work.

From time to time we all have

stumbled but we did not fall because we reached up and took hold of the Master's hand. If we just hold on to His hand, everything will be all right. Yes, sometimes the road gets a little rough, but holding to God's unchanging hand makes it all right.

From this day forward, let us wake up and work. Let us promise the Lord that by His will, we will do our best for Him. Ooh, but sometimes through the rain and through the storm I must hold on to that gospel plow, to do the work of God.

Remember that we don't want to be a Sunday Christian. We want to be an every day Christian working for the Lord. And not one of confusion, only to come out when there is a meeting on the pastor. Let us look to the hills from which cometh our help and that is from the Lord.

I can truly say that once I was a wandering sheep and did not love the fold. I did not love my Shepherd's voice. I wouldn't be controlled. I was a wayward child. I did not love my home. I did not love my Father's voice. I loved afar to roam. Ooh, but one day I woke up and began to work for the Lord. You see there is no more a wandering sheep. I love to be controlled. I love my tender Shepherd's voice. I love the peaceful fold. No more a wayward child, I seek no more to roam. I love my Heavenly Father's voice. I love home to work to serve this present age.

Pastors, get your men to join us to help show the unsaved the road to Christ. Don't be afraid of the Laymen. We are here to help and support God's work, and lift you up as you lift up Christ. There is plenty of work for us to do together.

As President of the Laymen, that is our commitment. To God be the Glory.



BAPTIST INFORMER

All Camera Ready Ads, Articles, etc. are due no later than the
10th OF THE MONTH

EXAMPLE:

June 10th for the July paper

July 10th for the August paper

August 10th for the September paper

They may be emailed to CJSMITH@GBSC.ORG or
Ad/Disc may be mailed to: 603 S. Wilmington St., Raleigh, NC 27601
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By Dr. Jasper P. Reed, Historian, GBSC

Our contemporary history maker for the month of August is a profound contributor to, but not a native of, the State of North



Dr. Jasper Reed

Carolina. He was born in Thomson, Georgia into a Christian family of sharecroppers. Even then the Lord had designs on him to do great things in His Kingdom's work. The Holy Spirit was at work early in

his life. He was guided through the hardships of being a sharecropper's child and still achieved academically leading him to become an honor student. The Lord's hand was still guiding him as he entered Paine College in Georgia, Fayetteville State University in North Carolina, Shaw Divinity School, and Boston University in pursuit of his Bachelors, Masters, and credits leading to a Doctorate. His academic and spiritual acumen helped him in receiving two Honorary Doctorates from Virginia Seminary and College, and Shaw University Divinity School.

A Contemporary History Maker

This month's history maker is Past President of the General Baptist State Convention, the Rev. Dr. John D. Fuller, Sr. The son of the late Deacon and Mrs. Leon Fuller, he is the father of John Jr., Eva Regina, and Frankie Bernard; the grandfather of four, and is the eminent Pastor of the Lewis Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, Fayetteville, NC. He is the past Secretary of the Lott Carey Convention, and past Moderator of the Union Baptist Association.

"This is a true saying, if any man desires the Office of Pastor, he desires a good work," 1 Timothy 3:1. Our history maker was called to the ministry at the age of 16. When he was 17 he preached his first sermon at Jones Grove Baptist Church in Thomson, Georgia. In 1966 Rev. Fuller was drafted into the United States Army and was stationed at Fort Bragg, NC. While he was there on assignment the Holy Spirit made Rev. Fuller available to preach at the local churches. These experiences led him to be called to pastor two local churches. Prior to accepting these calls, he was ordained by the Union Baptist Association.

The churches were Baptist Union Baptist Church, Hope Mills, and Beauty Spot Baptist Church, of Fayetteville. During his tenure at these two churches,

they grew spiritually, financially, and physically. Rev. Fuller was subsequently called to the pastorate of Lewis Chapel Missionary Baptist Church. He received the call in October and eleven months later the church had broken ground for a new facility. This dynamic pastorate laid the groundwork for him becoming the Moderator of the Union Baptist Association, and the Presidency of GBSC. Whatever platform he might have had while a candidate for the Presidency was altered when hurricane Floyd came to eastern North Carolina. This event clearly demonstrated the movement of God's Hand in the life of Dr. John D. Fuller, Sr. His response to the devastation was in line with the scripture as found in John 4:32-33, "My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work. Say not ye, there are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? Behold I say unto you, lift up your eyes and look on the field; for they are white already to harvest."

Dr. Fuller challenged GBSC to step up and assist the displaced persons where they were in need. He committed the Convention to see that our missionary ministry was carried out. He was instrumental in identifying many needs and commenced a program to address the needs of the GBSC family affected

by the storm. Dr. Fuller, Sr. had a passion for housing and introduced a housing ministry to become a part of the Convention's presentation.

He worked to have all churches emulate Lewis Chapel Missionary Baptist Church in their commitment to the Convention. He made many recommendations concerning organizational changes during his tenure. One was the concept of churches and/or associations providing personnel services for GBSC at no cost to GBSC. Lewis Chapel Baptist Church provided the salary for Rev. Leach to assist Dr. Logan.

Following his Presidency, Dr. Fuller remained active in the Lord's service. He is still actively helping churches and associations by presenting workshops and doing lectures. He is also working diligently to continue the growth of Lewis Chapel. They are actively involved in the building of the John D. Fuller, Sr. family life, health and recreation center. It has been 25-plus years of Dr. Fuller's pastorate and growth is still on going. Lewis Chapel has grown in church contributions, membership, and spiritual development. Dr. Fuller is a giant of a man who has proven to be a teacher, minister, adviser, administrator, builder, and a friend to mankind. He is a servant who labors in word and doctrine and is worthy to be remembered for his contributions to GBSC.

"Busy Building To Serve The Present Age"

The General Baptist State Convention is looking for individuals or churches to donate materials necessary to better organize the space that is available at Baptist Headquarters. We are in the process of building shelves and storage units to better organize our financial and archived information. This is necessary because as the Convention grows, we find we are requiring more storage area.

The Laymen's League of First Baptist Church in Raleigh (Dr. Dumas A. Harshaw, Jr., Pastor) have generously volunteered their time with this project.

We are looking for the following items to be donated:
Lumber: 1/2 inch plywood, 2x4's, 2x2's, 1x4's, 2x10's, and Nails

For more information, please contact Headquarters at:
(919) 821-7466 or Toll-Free: (800) 639-4272

You may also fax a list of the items you can donate to:
(919) 836-0061
(Please include all contact information)

Peace Be Unto You: What We've Seen and Heard

By A. T. Griffey, III
Statistician, GBSC

How will we respond to those who doubt? What should we say to those with uncertainties, or to those who ask,



Dr. A.T.
Griffey, III

same message." Or, we could discuss the Old Testament prophecies which

"Is Jesus really the answer?"

We could begin with how the Bible is the true Word of God: "A collection of 66 books written by many different authors, during a 1500 year time period, and all with the

were fulfilled with Jesus. We could show where Micah said the Savior would be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2) and where Isaiah stated He would be born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14).

We could point to Zechariah who prophesied that our King would enter Jerusalem "gentle and riding on a donkey" (Zechariah 9:9), how David said He would be crucified; "they have pierced My hands and My feet" (Psalm 22:16), and how Isaiah said He would die for our sin; "He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors" (Isaiah 53:12).

These are all good truths to share at the appropriate time; but when someone is doubting or searching, it's usually best to follow the example of Jesus. John the Baptist had sent messengers to ask Jesus, "Are you the one who was to come, or

should we expect someone else?" (Luke 7:19).

Luke 7:21-22: "At that very time Jesus cured many who had diseases, sicknesses and evil spirits, and gave sight to many who were blind. So He replied to the messengers, 'Go back and report to John what you have seen and heard.'"

While it's good to be able to defend our faith, we will never convince anyone to believe by presenting Biblical "facts". The most convincing argument as to the truth of God's Word is to share how we've seen it come alive in our own life; how we've seen Jesus calm the seas and

rebuke the storms; heal broken lives and answer prayers. We ought to share how we've heard Him call us to test the waters of faith and seen the waters become solid as we stepped; how we've experienced "the peace of God, which transcends all understanding" (Philippians 4:7). When God's truths become real in our life, they cannot be argued against!

If His truths have not yet become real, there can be no better preparation than to press VERY close into His presence and allow His light to shine in and through us each and every day. Let's "prepare" to share the gospel; and when the opportunity arises, let's simply report what we've seen and heard.

Have a Great Day!

"Is Jesus really the answer?"

Mount Carmel Missionary Baptist Church, Inc.

"Building Spiritually Strong Families for the Kingdom of God!"



Dr. A.T. Griffey, III
Senior Pastor

Schedule of Worship Services

Sunday Church School - 9:30 am
Sunday Morning Worship - 10:30 am
Tuesday Evening Girl Scouts - 6:00 pm
Wednesday Evening Intercessory Prayer - 6:30 pm
Wednesday Evening Bible Study - 7:00 pm
Thursday Evening Woman's Fellowship - 7:00 pm

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Factors In The Teaching Process

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The Need For Sunday School

How To Conduct An Annual Promotion Day

How To Find, Allocate, and Use Space

How to Obtain Community Demographics

How to Discover and Enlist Workers

How to Organize Your Sunday School

The Church Members' Role In Sunday School

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Reaching Out To Our At-Risk Youth

Michael R. Smith, Sr., Chairman

The Church must reach out to young persons in our communities who are lost



Rev. Michael Smith, Sr.

and have no knowledge of Jesus Christ – those youth whose lives are headed toward destructive associations, illegal lifestyles, incarceration and ultimately death. Yet, the question needs to be asked who are these at-risk youth? These

at-risk youth are **our children!** No family is spared the reality of having persons go astray at young ages. The times we live in now make it a reality that all young persons are at-risk. Certainly, there are some whose economic and family situations lend toward higher at-risk possibilities, but all youth are at-risk to some degree. This is why parental authority is a God ordained responsibility in the home first.

Secondly, the Church has a responsibility to our youth. There was a study done some years ago by Dr. C. Eric Lincoln and Lawrence H. Mamiya entitled **"The Black Church in the African American Experience"**. This research has a chapter that is entitled "In My Mother's House: The Black Church and Young People". Every church leader should be aware of this research. In this article I will share some of the insights I have gained from my reading of this research which was published in 1990.

As one who has been serving in the prison setting since 1979, I have seen the faces of the incarcerated getting younger and younger over the past 23 years. I have told this convention (GBSC) we are dealing with a crisis that has far reaching implications for the future of our communities. I am thankful to see a much needed renewed outreach to at-risk youth, but we still have a long way to go. The traditional youth ministry in most churches is geared toward reaching young persons who come to the church building. There are great numbers of young people who will not come to our sanctuaries and must be engaged out in the midst of the community. Are we prepared to go mobile in reaching our at-risk youth? I have met many young persons in prison over the years. One encounter stands out the most. This young man in his early twenties came to my office. He was searching for answers about the Christian faith. I

began to share with him. He listened and then stated that all he wanted was the truth. This led me to realize young people are searching for an authenticity with Christ that many times is hidden by our church religiosity. This young man just wanted to know what is real about Jesus Christ. Some of our attempts to reach youth must not be camouflaged or buried under our denominational traditions or church religiosity. We must reject trying to make youth Baptist before first leading them to saving relationship with Christ. Bishop Larry Trotter said, **"We cannot afford to be bound by old systems or traditions and allow our youth to go astray."** Many churches will not change in their attempts to reach out to youth and the results are congregations growing older and older with no new life that can only come from the youth growing into mature Christian leaders. The challenges to reach our at-risk youth will demand we be innovative as we rely on the leading of Jesus' example and the Word of God. The key is to never forget Christianity in its essence is a relationship with Christ, not religiosity. To reach our at-risk youth, we must establish authentic relationships in the midst of our communities.

RESEARCH INFORMATION FROM "THE BLACK CHURCH IN THE AFRICAN AMERICAN EXPERIENCE"

By C. Eric Lincoln and Lawrence H. Mamiya

The following is from a 15-year study and is specifically dealing with the black church and our youth. Be mindful this research was published in 1990.

A CME pastor who was interviewed in a survey stated: **"For the first time in Black history, we are seeing an unchurched generation of young Black people growing up in urban areas. In previous generations, you could always assume some knowledge of Black Church culture, like favorite hymns or prayers or some rituals. Today, there are teenagers out there (in the streets) who have no knowledge of and no respect for the Black Church and its traditions."**

"Perhaps one of the most important functions that Black churches performed for young people was to provide a place where they could meet older adults, men and women, who could serve as role models for them. Much of the socialization for children and youth occur through the process of role modeling – observing, evaluating, emulating, and filing away for later use the behavior, examples, and

values of others."

Our youth today face an identity crisis. The research dealt with the identity crisis of our youth. The research dealt with past studies dealing with racial identification and how the Black church has always been a place of affirmation.

"Black churches have always provided a community and an atmosphere where people could be affirmed and accepted as they are ... Nevertheless, a major problem for many contemporary black churches is the disproportionate focus of their programs and efforts on adults. Black youth, especially young children became an afterthought in the church's schedule of significant ministry. While Sunday Schools continue as a traditional part of the typical black church, many perform functions more akin to babysitting than education and socialization. Too many black pastors do not concern themselves with this aspect of ministry, but tend to delegate the religious education of their youth to someone else."

Presently, our nation leads the world in incarceration of its citizens. The crime and incarceration crisis in our nation has been largely ignored by the Black church. There are signs of repentance in this area from some sectors of the church. Presently, our convention only prioritizes this crisis in our state to a committee status level in our convention. I believe this area must become a major objective of the GBSC if we are to reach out to many of our youth who are incarcerated. Black youth who grow up in the urban and even rural cities today are more at-risk of becoming a part of the prison industry. How are we seeking to reach these youth prior to prison and even after being incarcerated?

"Besides unemployment, a common experience for many black teens and young adults, especially males, is imprisonment ... The rates or recidivism, returning to prison varies with age; younger inmates between the ages of seventeen to twenty-four, have the highest rates, 60 – 70 percent, and older inmates, over age forty-five, have rates below 5 percent."

The church cannot give up on our youth who are incarcerated. Yet our methodology in prison ministry must be more strategic than just holding church services and leaving. We must seek to initiate church plants in prisons, Christian schools of discipleship within the prisons, pre-release and after care ministries, and mentoring efforts that are holistic in their approach. Presently, what is your church doing to reach our youth in prison? I believe the GBSC needs to attach this crisis from an associ-

ational stance. Local churches in any GBSC association should form a prison ministry coalition in order to have more resources to reach at-risk youth. We must come together in our associations because the crisis is too large to tackle individually today.

RESPONDING TO VIOLENT YOUTH AND CRIME

Over the past several years we have witnessed an escalation of violent crimes committed by young persons. This has spawned serious juvenile justice issues such as trying youth as adults and what to do with violent youthful offenders. My concern is what will be the response of the Church? How can the Church minister to this segment of troubled youth capable of violent crimes and many who are incarcerated.

While I served as Chaplain/Pastor at the Metropolitan Correction Center in Chicago, Illinois, the Lord allowed me to personally experience this crisis. This facility housed mostly pre-trial inmates (those who had not been convicted or sentenced yet). Many of these young persons were gang bangers from the streets of Chicago. I met and talked frequently with members of the Gangster Disciples, Vice Lords, and El Rukin gangs. I also visited the Cook County Jail in Chicago with Rev. Gordon McLean, Director of Juvenile for Justice Ministry with the Metro Chicago Youth for Christ organization. Basically, these were nothing more than young lost, misguided, and violent youth who looked for the answers in the wrong places. These young men were responsible for the choices they had made and were now preparing to face their justice through the judicial process. Some still tried to keep up the hardened gang image and some were having an awakening to the reality and consequences of the gang lifestyle. This personal experience in my ministry in Chicago sensitized me to the severity of the youth crisis in this country as it relates to violent crime. **Kenneth Woodard said, "But for people of faith, the redemption of the nation's inner cities is a calling, not a caseload. The God they bring into crime infested streets is both the Old Testament Jehovah of law and order and the New Testament's merciful Jesus."**

Newsweek Magazine featured an article by John Leland as the cover story entitled "God vs. Gangs". The article shared a response to youth gang crime spearheaded by the Rev. Eugene Rivers of Dorchester, Massachusetts. Rev. Rivers directs the Ella J. Baker House which is a ministry to reach street mind-

ISM - Cont'd on next page

ISM - Cont'd from page 13

ed youth. This response to youth crime is one of many emerging strategies to reach at-risk youth. The inner city is not the only place where youth crisis is growing. Recent school shootings in rural communities reveal the crisis is everywhere. The rise of youth involvement in the occult has also come to national attention.

The juvenile justice system is challenged as never before to come up with solutions. How do we justly deal with violent youth? The Ella J. Baker model shows how law enforcement and ministers can provide alternative strategies instead of simple incarceration. The key to any ministry's effectiveness is related to the effort being carried out in the midst of the trouble spot. Rev. Rivers is right there with the dope dealer in the community. The church must develop strategies that can be implemented out in the community. We must go where the problem exists and establish a place of refuge and presence. Our efforts to reach troubled and violent youth will never work if we stand behind the walls of our sanctuaries. Our strategy must be to engage troubled youth where they are in

the community. This is what neighborhood drug dealer and gang banger Selvin Brown told Rev. Eugene Rivers. **"I am there when Johnny goes out for a loaf of bread for mama. I'm there, you're not. I win, you lose. It's all about being there."** The growing number of troubled and violent youth will continue to increase. Who would have initially thought one of the suspects in the Maryland sniper case would be a teenager, John Malvo. Media violence, secularization of society, and the erosion of the moral foundations have created an explosive mindset in many youth. This mindset lacks the discernment of right and wrong. I have counseled young men in prison. The alarming fact is many youth are growing up with a distorted view of reality fueled by poverty, drugs, and covetousness. An older inmate told me in a North Carolina prison, **"Chaplain, it's not us older inmates you have to worry about, but these younger ones coming in now. They don't care and have no respect."** The prison population is growing younger by the year. Conspiracy laws and new sentencing guidelines will ensure the potential for more youth to be convicted of crimes and spend lengthier times in prison.

Let me say there are many young persons who have not opted to live outside the law. The Church needs to listen to them in order to get the youth perspective on issues they face. This can go a long way in helping church leaders come up with effective strategies to youth violence. The challenge for the church is to come out of our sanctuaries and go to our troubled youth in the community. Only then will we be able to say with the love of Christ, we care for you, follow me. Catholic lay worker, William Wylie Thomes, Jr., known as Brother Bill, is another example of an effective strategy in reaching gang bangers on Chicago's near north side in the violent Cabrini-Green housing project. This takes courage and the church would do well to remember we have not been given a spirit of fear. Responding to violent youth can only be done by those whose love outweighs their fear. Brother Bill says it in simple words. **"I'm just an ordinary man on an extraordinary mission."**

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concert can be purchased at Union Baptist Church, 1200 North Trade St., Monday - Friday. If you would like more information, call (336) 724-9305, or visit the website at www.unionbaptist-wsnc.org. Union Baptist Church, "A Church Determined to Live for Christ", is located at 1200 North Trade St. where Dr. Sir Walter Mack, Jr. is pastor and teacher.

¹ Larry D. Trotter, *Listening To Our Youth*, Gospel Today, (March - April 2001), p. 65.

² C. Eric Lincoln and Lawrence Mamiya, *The Black Church in the African American Experience*, (Durham, N.C., Duke University Press, 1990), p. 310.

³ Ibid, pp. 312-313.

⁴ Ibid, p. 316.

⁵ Ibid, p. 323.

⁶ Kenneth Woodard, *The New Holy War*, Newsweek Magazine, June 1, 1998, p. 26.

⁷ John Leland, *God vs. Gangs*, Newsweek Magazine, June 1, 1988, p. 20.

⁸ Conversation with an inmate at the Durham Correctional Center, Durham, N.C., 1995.

⁹ Ron Stodhill II, *In the Line of Fire*, Time Magazine, April 20, 1998, p. 34

GBSC UPCOMING SESSIONS

2003 - 2006

YEAR	CITY	HOST
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2004	Roxboro	Shady Hil
2005	Elizabeth City	St. Stephens
2006	Wilmington	Shiloh
ANNUAL		
2003	Charlotte	Ebenezer
2004	Salisbury	Mt. Zion
2005	Asheville	Mt. Zion
2006	Raleigh	Martin Street
TRINITY SESSION		
2004	Goldsboro	Bear Creek Association
2005	Fayetteville	Union Association
2006	Reidsville	Zion
EVANGELISM CONFERENCE		
2004	Greensboro	East White Oak
2005	Charlotte	Chappell Memorial
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Health Disparities: North Carolina's Continuing disaster

By Anita P. Holmes, JD, MPH,
Executive Director

The tragic events of September 11, 2001 occurred two months short of my twentieth anniversary of practicing



Dr. Anita
Holmes

health in North Carolina. The 911 attacks, and the subsequent events involving the use of Anthrax bacteria as a weapon of terror by introducing it into the US Postal Service mail delivery system, made it clear to me that biological

and chemical terrorism pose real threats to the health and safety of our citizens.

The response of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, other government agencies and institutions, and the public's response demonstrate that public health has a critical role to play in preparedness and responsiveness to the threat of biological and chemical terrorism. An issue which warrants further attention is — in the event of a biological or chemical terrorists' attack, what steps must be taken to assure that such an event does not give rise to disparities in illness and injuries by race and ethnicity. In other words how do we prevent biological and chemical terrorism related to racial and ethnic health disparities?

There is compelling evidence that race and ethnicity correlate with seemingly intractable and, in some instances, increasing health disparities among our state and national populations. As noted in *Racial and Ethnic Differences in Health In North Carolina*, a publication of the North Carolina State Center for Health Statistics, "We do not have a complete understanding of why race is associated with health problems, but low socioeconomic status, stress and racism are among the underlying causes of the poorer health status of minorities ... compared to Whites. Other factors include access to health care, insurance coverage, medical and health care decision making, health beliefs and health promotion practices."

We have learned from natural disasters that community responsiveness to the same catastrophic event varies markedly. For example, with Hurricane Floyd in 1999, many observed that even within the same county some communities took affirmative steps to advocate

for services and benefits for their residents while other communities, due to lack of leadership or information, distrust between community agencies and community residents, or misunderstanding, experienced difficulties accessing benefits and services such as housing, relief agency services, grants and loans, health information, etc. or were left behind and are still behind in their recovery efforts. Though a biological or chemical terrorist event will be of national interest and have national security implications, the local preparedness and responsiveness may significantly influence the nature and distribution of illness and injury locally. At the time of an untoward event, community readiness in terms of trust, communications, availability of information, material and manpower resources will play a key role in determining the health impact and consequences of the event and the distribution of those impacts and consequences throughout the community.

How do we structure our preparedness and response systems such that racial and ethnic minority communities are not disproportionately and adversely impacted by an act of biological or chemical terrorism? This issue must be addressed by assuring racial and ethnic breadth and depth in the cadre of key partners involved in preparedness and responsiveness planning. In public health, traditional partners in disaster preparedness and responsiveness have included public health organizations, medical research centers, health care providers and their networks, professional societies, medical examiners, emergency medical services, and other state and federal agencies.

If we are to prevent disparities, it is imperative that preparedness at every level take affirmative steps to encourage, support and enlist broad, racially and ethnically diverse local community representation and input. This is true because a biological or chemical terrorism event is a local event and public and private leaders and community residents of the impacted geopolitical unit or community will determine the local response and will be responsible for mitigating the injury and illness arising out of the event.

In order to achieve optimal local community involvement and input, official public health and emergency management agencies must establish and maintain openness in all planning processes and activities. They must take affirmative steps to identify and actively engage not only racially and ethnically diverse elected officials, health and public health practitioners, emergency man-

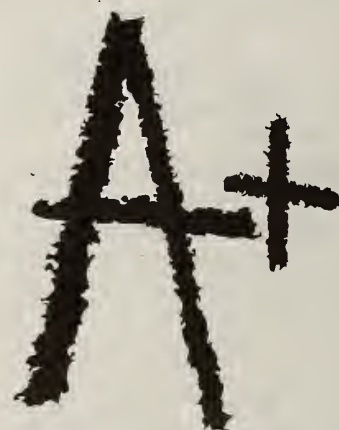
agement, etc.; but also racially and ethnically diverse faith leaders, community activists, business leaders, educators, voluntary health agencies, union and labor leaders, and other community serving entities. This expanded circle of key partners can develop and promulgate crisis communications and action strategies that keep all partners informed and engaged in the community response process and instill a sense of community confidence and trust in responses and actions of key players as they carry out their respective duties and responsibilities in the impacted community.

I share all of the above with you because, as is often the case with extraordinary events such as death of a family member or a disaster, we pause and assess and evaluate our lives, beliefs and perspectives on the usual and ordinary in our everyday world. Thus, from my analysis of the Hurricane Floyd disaster of 1999, the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, and the anthrax scare, I have come to see the well documented differences in health status across racial and ethnic groups as a "continuing disaster" in which community engagement as set out above will be a key component to our addressing health disparities effec-

tively. Much remains to be done! Public and private funders of public health and medical services must demand that health and medical service providers and researchers, in their quest for funding and support, demonstrate that they can go beyond merely providing detailed descriptions of target populations and the burden of death, disease, and the disability they bear to developing strategies and tools to effectively engage racial and ethnic group members who are part of the target population in the governance, design, delivery and evaluation of funded initiatives. Further, members of racial and ethnic minority communities must assertively and aggressively pursue opportunities to offer our knowledge, skills and abilities to shape policy and programs that can have a positive impact in our communities.

The time is now! We must review, analyze, and assess all that we do in order to assure optimal involvement for all our communities in our response to the threats of biological and chemical terrorism and to racial and ethnic health disparities, the "continuing disaster".

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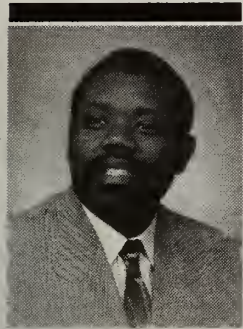
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CENTRAL CHILDREN'S HOME

By Reverend Ricky L. Banks

Thought For The Month: "All The Way"

What did Paul mean when he said that he had fought a good fight, finished



Rev. Ricky Banks

his course, and had kept the faith? I like to think that he was saying to me: I have done my utmost to follow in the footsteps of Christ; I love my enemies, although now they wish to take my life; I have no regrets,

even though I must die for my faith. I have fought the good fight. I have never once, since I met Jesus on the road to Damascus, turned from the path

that he pointed out to me, and I have gone every step of the way. I have finished my course. And my faith in Jesus, the Christ, whom I once persecuted has never faltered. There have been a countless number of times when all seemed lost, but I knew that he was near, and shall always be, even as he is with me now as I prepare to give my life for his cause. I have kept the faith.

As I think about Paul, I wonder whether we Christians today could truthfully say I have fought the good fight. We can do it if love is our chief weapon. We can keep the faith as Christ kept it with his Father, and finish our course by going all the way that Jesus pointed out to Paul.

I am delighted once again to report that the Central Children's Home is on

the move. It is up and running determined to go all the way. We ask for your prayers and your support. Please remember our children in your budgets for the upcoming year. The staff continues to work hard on the transitional classroom program, and the accreditation process. On August 2, 2003 the

Central Children's Home will observe family and friends day in conjunction with the Alumni Reunion in the gymnasium beginning at 11:00 a.m. On August 16, 2003 The Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention will observe fellowship, registration will begin at 10:00 a.m. If we can be of service, please call at (252) 334-3438 or (252) 335-5003. May God Bless You!

Join the Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention and the Central Children's Home of North Carolina as they fellowship together in the

Fourth Bi-Annual Central Children's Home Day

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Fourth Bi-Annual Central Children's Home Day

August 16, 2003

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Time of Arrival _____

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July 2, 2003

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Dr. Fuller will be honored with an Appreciation Banquet on Saturday, September 20, 2003 in the Crown Coliseum, Fayetteville, North Carolina at 6:00 p.m.

The Reverend Dr. Thurman B. Everett, Housing Chairperson of the General Baptist State Convention and Pastor of Bryant Swamp Baptist Church, Bladenboro, North Carolina will be the Banquet Speaker.

Tickets are available from 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Monday - Friday in the Church Office, 5422 Raeford Road, (910) 424-2344. Adult tickets are \$30.00 and a child's plate (12 and under) is \$15.00. Checks or money orders should be made payable to Lewis Chapel Baptist Church.

On behalf of the celebrant, the Lewis Chapel Baptist Church invites your family to share with our family at this very significant occasion honoring "Our Shepherd".

For additional information please contact Ms. Lorraine Williams at the above telephone or by email, lwiliams@lewischapel.org.

Shaw graduate receives award

Shaw University alumna Lakeisha O. Wells recently received the Fannie Mae First Year Teacher Award for Enloe High School (Wake County, NC, Public School System). Wells, who is a math teacher at Enloe High School, was also selected as a finalist for the First Year Teacher Award for Wake County.



Dr. Leonzo Lynch

Sumter, SC, was involved in numerous

Wells, a 2002 graduate of Shaw University from

Sumter, SC, was involved in numerous

student activities and was a recipient of several awards while a student at Shaw. The Mathematics Education major was a member of the Student Government Association (SGA), a University Scholarship recipient, a NASA/MASTAP Scholar, and a NASA/PACEMAT Intern. She was also a Student Development Counselor and received an Outstanding Math Major Award during the 1999-2000 academic year.

Dr. Joan Barrax, Dean of Shaw University's College of Graduate and Professional Studies and Chair of the Department of Education, said Wells is not an exception, but the rule, when it comes to the type of student Shaw University nurtures. "I was quite pleased – and not surprised – that one of Shaw

University's graduates was named New Teacher of the Year for Enloe High School. Graduates from Shaw's Department of Education have received many awards over the years, including Teacher of the Year and Principal of the Year. Ms. Wells' accomplishment epitomizes the type of graduate that Shaw University, in general, and the Department of Education, specifically, is producing."

As part of the competition for the New Teacher of the Year Award, Wells was required to write an original essay addressing how (the public school) systems can retain highly qualified teachers. Within her essay, she had to expound on what current support systems benefit new teachers and was also asked to include what support systems are needed to ensure new teacher success.

In her essay, Wells expressed why she chose to work in the teaching profession. "Teaching is so much more than a job. This profession gives us the opportunity to prepare and educate individuals to become productive members of society. Only a chosen few possess the rare inner desire to be a teacher. Educating students is the highest responsibility and honor that I feel anyone could have," said Wells.

Shaw University offers the following teacher education programs: Birth through Kindergarten Education, Elementary Education (K-6), English Education (9-12), Mathematics Education (9-12), and Special Education (K-12). In addition, the Department recently added a Master's Degree program in Curriculum and Instruction with a concentration in Early Childhood Education. ■

DEAN, Cont'd From Page 1

which consists of several research projects in "the Practice of Ministry". Roberson has been responsible for the Divinity School receiving several grants to do research. His most recent effort is a grant from the Wabash Center to do research on a *Pedagogy for Non-Traditional Theological Education in Historically Black Seminaries*.

Prior to coming to Shaw, Roberson served as Dean of the Doctoral Studies Program at United Theological Seminary in Dayton, OH. During this time, he has provided leadership in establishing a new standard of excellence for the program and in using the technology of the Information Age in the delivery of theological education. Roberson is an acknowledged leader in theological education, particularly regarding the use of technology in ministry. He is a member of the Society for the Study of Black Religion (SSBR), the American Baptist Association of Seminary Administrators (ABASA), and the Association of Theological Schools (ATS) Chief Academic Officers Society (CAOS). Roberson achieved national recognition for his work with the UTS Doctoral Program, having served as the supervising mentor for such persons as Molefi Asante, Charles Booth, Jacquelyn Grant, Clarice Martin, Otis Moss, Henry and Ella Mitchell, Samuel Proctor, W. Franklin Richardson, Gary Simpson, Leonard Sweet, Wyatt Tee Walker, Cornel West, Ed Wheeler, Jeremiah Wright, and Gayraud Wilmore to name a few. Some of the products of the United Theological Seminary program in the North Carolina area are Ricky Woods, Charlene Hendrix, Sir Walter Mack, Reginald van Stephens, Leonzo Lynch, Clery Fleps, Cornelius

Battle, David Forbes, Cathy Gilliard, Freddie Barnes, and John Mendez. While at UTS, he was the recipient of a Ford Foundation grant to do a research on *The Black Church and Secular Social Service Delivery*.

Roberson was, until April 1992, a Network Systems Project Manager at IBM, where he had been employed for the last 24 years. He is president and founder of the Black Religious Studies Network, Inc., (BRSNET); a computer conferencing network designed to promote the development and dissemination of information and data related to the study of African American religion. This network was used to conduct Computer-Mediated-Communication classes for students at New York Theological Seminary (NYTS), Howard University School of Divinity (HUSD), Virginia Union School of Theology (VUST), and the Interdenominational Theological center (ITC).

Roberson is originally from Moss Point, Mississippi, where he graduated from Magnolia High School in 1960. He attended Jackson State University for two years, and received a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics from Millsaps College of Jackson, MS in 1968. Roberson was the first African American male to graduate from the previously all white liberal arts school. Roberson joined IBM as a programmer in September 1968. He later attended New York University and received a Master of Science in Mathematics (Computer Science) degree in May 1973. He was ordained a Baptist minister in 1983 at the Mount Lebanon Baptist Church of Peekskill, NY and graduated from New York Theological Seminary in May 1988 with a Master of Divinity degree. He went on to earn a Doctor of Philosophy in Administration

and Supervision/Church Leadership from Fordham University of New York in 1993.

In commenting on Roberson's tenure as Pastor Elect, Deacon Richard H. Greene, Chairman of the Deacon Board, stated "Dr. Roberson's has brought a new excitement to our church. Our attendance has improved, membership has begun to increase, our Bible Study on Wednesday nights is going very well, and the spirit of the church is extremely high. We are anticipating great things from God through our new pastor." Roberson succeeds Rev. Alvin Cason who served as pastor of New Bethel until April of 2002.

New Bethel is a small congregation

located on Waverly Thompson Road in Macon, NC. The church began as a brush harbor church that was organized in 1876 and has served Warren County since that time. Services at New Bethel are held on first and third Sunday of each month. New Bethel is affiliated with the United Shiloh Baptist Association. Rev. Lacy Joyner, Moderator; and the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Dr. Charles Bullock, President.

Roberson is married to Beverly Powell Roberson and the couple lives in Apex, NC with their adopted son, Calvin Shaffer. ■

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GBSCNC Church Member Awarded Scholarship To Attend Wake Forest University

*Submitted by Carol J. Smith,
Managing Editor*

Christopher Lamont Long of Burlington has accepted a William Louis Poteat Scholarship to attend Wake Forest University in fall 2003.

Long, the son of Francine and Herman Long, graduated from Walter M. Williams High School. He is a member of Maple Grove Baptist Church, a church affiliated with the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

Recipients of this scholarship show promise of making vital contributions to the church and the community during college and after graduation. Each scholarship is worth \$11,200 and is renewable for four years.

Thirty Poteat Scholarships have been awarded to members of General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina churches since 1993 at a value of \$295,000. Of these, 16 have graduated from Wake Forest, seven with honors, including five cum laude.

Poteat Scholarship

*Submitted by Carol J. Smith,
Managing Editor*

Wake Forest University's 2003 graduating class included the following William J. Poteat Scholars who are members of General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina churches: Ketarah Chere Robinson of Williamston, Mount Shiloh Baptist Church, Bachelor of Arts; Tangela Annette Wallace of Winston-

Salem, Dreamland Park Baptist Church, Bachelor of Arts

Named for Wake Forest's president from 1903 to 1927, the Poteat Scholarship recognizes students who are active members affiliated with the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of North Carolina.

Statement about youth and drugs

*Submitted by Carol J. Smith,
Managing Editor*

The National Council of Churches USA and our 36-member communions – which comprise 50 million adherents in 140,000 local congregations nationwide – recognize that we have a responsibility to love, encourage, nurture and guide our children.

Carol J. Smith

We affirm the role of the church to give moral guidance and transmit positive values. Part of that is helping people cultivate self-respect and make healthy choices. In light of the challenges many young people now face, our churches play a vital role in helping parents communicate with their children about alcohol, tobacco and illegal drugs. Our churches are also a vehicle through which valuable information can be disseminated to parents and youth about the dangers of substance abuse.

Experimenting with alcohol, tobacco and illegal drugs can hinder our children from fully developing their gifts and talents. In worse case scenarios, experimentation can lead to addiction and abuse. Our faith teaches us that this is in direct conflict with Christian values and principles.

We teach our children that they are created in the image of God. We also

teach them that the body is the temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19-20) and that we should honor God in body and spirit, both of which belong to God.

Based on theological grounding and scientific research we understand that the use of alcohol, tobacco and illegal drugs can cause harm, not only to our bodies, but also to our mental and spiritual well being. It can result in fractured relationships and harm to families. By preventing abuse of these substances, we will ultimately eliminate the serious and complicated problems that arise from their use.

Finally, our churches also encourage adults to be role models of Christian values and principles so that our children are led by example. The days are past when we can say to our children, do what I say, not what I do. The days are past when we can tell our children that they should be seen and not heard. Instead, through the preaching and teaching of the Gospel we strive to build the self-esteem of young people and create safe spaces for open conversation and interactive learning.

As our churches continue to search for creative ways to be relevant in addressing issues like substance abuse, we applaud the efforts of the Office of National Drug Control Policy's National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign to provide important resources that can assist us in teaching our youth how to live substance-free lives and grow to be the people that God intends.

*By Brenda Girton-Mitchell
National Council of Churches USA
On Anti-Drug Resources for Faith Communities*

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ANNOUNCEMENT...

CONGRESS OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ANNOUNCES GBSC BOOK SALES

We are encouraging all GBSC Pastors, Ministers and laypersons who have authored books and/or training manuals to contact us. It is the desire of our Congress President to expose your literary work to the Convention body and the general public. Many in our great GBSC family are not aware of all the talented authors we have in our state, whose books would be an asset to any Pastor, Minister or church seeking to do effective ministry in the twenty-first century.

All authors are asked to contact Dr. Johnny R. Freeman at (336) 272-0822 if you wish to have copies of your books made available during the upcoming Congress July 17-19. The location for this year's Congress is Second Calvary Baptist Church, 114 Nelson Ave., Charlotte, NC. There is no vendor fee to display your books during this event.

Don't get burned by summer vacation plans

By Attorney General Roy Cooper

You've worked hard all year and you're ready for a much-deserved summer getaway. The state we call home is a top tourist destination. In fact, North Carolina is the sixth most visited state in the nation. Tar Heel tourism is also a major source of jobs and income. More than 44 million visitors enjoyed our state last year, spending nearly \$12 billion at our shops, restaurants, hotels and attractions. Travelers are drawn to North Carolina's scenic beauty, our outdoor activities, our history and our culture.

Wherever you choose to take a vacation, keep these tips in mind:

• Vacation Rentals

Planning on renting a place at the coast for a week? North Carolina's Vacation Rental Act protects consumers who rent a residential property for vacation or recreation purposes for fewer than 90 days. According to the law, the landlord must give you a vacation rental agreement in writing that spells out:

- Your rights and obligations as a tenant
- The rights and obligations of the landlord and/or real estate brokers
- How and when the tenant will pay to rent the property
- The amount of security deposit required and how the deposit will be held
- Any additional fees required to rent the property

Once you sign a vacation rental agreement, you agree to abide by its terms, as does the landlord. Landlords are required by law to comply with current building and housing codes, keep the property safe and habitable, provide working smoke detectors, and make sure that the plumbing, electricity and appliances work.

So what happens if your vacation gets cut short by the threat of a hurricane or forest fire? Your landlord may offer you insurance on your vacation rental, which would cover the cost of any nights you miss due to a mandatory evacuation. If you are ordered to evacuate and you were not given a chance to purchase insurance, the landlord is required to refund your money for each night you cannot stay at the rental property.

For help dealing with a landlord who doesn't deal fairly with you, contact my consumer protection office at (919) 716-6000. If you rented the property through a real estate company, contact the North Carolina Real Estate Commission at (919) 875-3700. If you are thinking about renting a vacation home out of state, it is a good idea to contact that state's Attorney General's Office to learn about your rights as a consumer.

*More than
44 million visitors
enjoyed our state
last year,...*

• Travel Packages

Still set on something more exotic for your summer vacation? You've probably gotten a fax or phone call offering an incredible price for what sounds like a dream vacation. What the advertisements don't reveal is that these travel packages usually involve added fees and/or require you to take a timeshare tour. In many cases, travelers arrive at their destination to discover that the accommodations aren't quite what the telemarketer promised. Remember, if it seems too good to be true, it probably is.

• Travel Clubs

Watch out for travel clubs that try to get you to join by calling or sending a postcard that says you have won a free trip. The trip is not really "free" if you must buy a club membership in order to win it. Or, you may be promised a free vacation if you go to a sales presentation where they'll try to talk you into making a quick decision and paying a lot of money up front for a membership. Don't fall for the high-pressure pitch. Before you buy, take the time to find out how easy the membership is to use, whether or not you'll be able to travel where and when you want, and if it really will save you money.

• Travel Agents

Planning a family trip can take a lot of work. Many consumers turn to a travel agent to help make their dream vacation come true. When choosing a travel agent to plan your far-flung vacation, go local. It is best to work with a local travel agency that has a good reputation in the community and comes recommended by friends or family.

• A Few More Travel Tips

No matter how you book your vacation or where you decide to go, paying with a credit card rather than cash, check or debit card protects you as a consumer. Using a credit card improves your odds of getting a refund if travel plans fall through or the company goes out of business. Purchasing travel insurance is also a smart idea. Just make sure to read the fine print and understand what the policy does and does not cover.

To check out a specific travel agent, travel package company or landlord or to register a complaint, you can always call my consumer protection office at (919) 716-6000.

Attorney General Roy Cooper and his staff never take a break from helping consumers. We are here to be of service when you need us, but through consumer education efforts like these columns we hope to help North Carolinians avoid problems from the start.



Rochelle Vann

Founder's Day Message

By Rochelle Vann,
Deacon Emeritus
First Baptist Church,
Winton, NC
Professor Emeritus,
Elizabeth City State
University

After giving some information about The Minds Eye, Mr. Vann used as a subject **Dr. Calvin Scott Brown our Founder, As I Saw Him.**

In the first place, in my mind's eye I saw him as a young man who loved his family and was very interested in earning an education. Dr. Calvin Scott Brown was born in Salisbury, North Carolina on March 23, 1859. When he was 15 years old, his father, Henry Brown, died. He was the oldest child in the family of five. The task of helping his mother support the family fell on his shoulders. His family was almost penniless. He secured work keeping the city cemetery and any other work that he could find until he finished Friend's School. The money he earned was given to his mother to help support his family. He then taught school at home for two years after receiving his

first grade teaching certificate in 1878. His mother encouraged him to go on to college, and with five dollars in his pocket and at age 23 he entered Shaw University.

He knew he would have to work hard in order to stay there, so he applied for work. His first job there was as secretary to Dr. Tupper, who was the President at that time. Dr. Tupper recognized his great potential and foresaw a bright future for our Founder if he could only stay in school. Dr. Tupper interested some of his white friends to help, and they began giving him scholarships. Our Founder also received financial help from a northern white church. He became an honor student and graduated with highest honors from Shaw University in 1886 with a Bachelor of Arts, Master of Arts, and a Doctor of Divinity degree.

In the second place, I saw our Founder not with my mind's eyes, but with my natural eyes as a leader, educator, and a Missionary Baptist Minister of the Gospel. I enrolled in the first grade on this campus when it was Water's Training School located on Main Street in Winton, and saw Dr. Brown with my

natural eyes until the year 1936. I saw him as Principal of the school who picked outstanding leaders from various parts of Hertford County to help and advise about problems of the school. This is what a good leader and an educator will do. I saw our Founder as a Missionary Baptist Preacher who pastored Missionary Baptist Churches such as First Baptist Winton, the church that is located on Main Street on the same property as the school that was founded by Dr. Brown. I became a member of this church at the age of 10. He also pastored at Philippi Missionary Baptist Church in Cofield, Mt. Moriah Missionary Baptist Church, near Winton, Mill Neck Missionary Baptist Church in Como, New Hope Missionary Baptist Church in Gates County and Pleasant Plains Missionary Baptist Church located on Hwy. 13 between Winton and Ahoskie. This was the first church our Founder pastored after graduating from Shaw University.

I saw our Founder as the first President of the Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Convention that was organized in Washington, D.C. where he remained as President for 30 years. In this capacity he traveled extensively in the interest of foreign missions. It was

very interesting for me to sit in our chapel services and hear him talk about his experience in the foreign fields.

In conclusion, in 1936, Hertford County and the entire Lott Carey family moaned the loss of Dr. Calvin Scott Brown, who passed away. I was a sophomore at Water's Training School and lived in walking distance of the school. I was sure to get to the school auditorium early in order to get a seat. The headlines in the newspaper stated that **Thousands Came.** The late Dr. J. L. S. Holloman, Pastor of Second Baptist Church, Washington, D.C. delivered the Eulogy. The late Dr. C. C. Boone from Cofield in Hertford County and a missionary to Africa sang a song in African language. The late Dr. James E. Shepherd, President of North Carolina College in Durham, C. C. Spaulding and others too numerous to mention were in attendance to pay respect to the late Dr. Calvin S. Brown.

In my closing remarks, I encourage those present to support Shaw University and I remind you that our own Dr. C. G. Newsome, a native of this county and President of Shaw University should be supported in all of his endeavors for Shaw University.

Union Baptist Church to Hold Shekinah Glory Revival

Union Baptist Church will hold its 3rd Annual *Shekinah Glory Revival* September 6-12, 2003. The roster is filled with anointed, powerful teachers that will usher in the Glory of God to elevate any seeking soul to that next spiritual level.

The week will commence on Saturday, September 6 at 10:00 a.m. with the Shekinah Glory Parade. The parade will conclude with a Fish Fry lunch designated as a time for fellowship. Groups interested in participating in the Shekinah Glory Parade may contact the church Program Director at (336) 773-1477, for an entry application. A consecration service will be held on Sunday with a Symphony to God, at 11:00 a.m., followed by communion service. These events have been planned to set the stage for the remainder of the week as we prepare to go behind the veil. Community Prayer will be held on Monday, September 9, at 6:00 p.m. Intercessors from around the city are invited to attend. Tuesday

through Thursday, there will be teaching and preaching at its best. Back by popular demand, Rev. J. R. Samuels of St. Stephen Missionary Baptist Church, will deliver daily noonday preaching. Dr. Joe Ratliff from Dallas, Texas, will be the guest lecturer during the *Taught Word* hour beginning at 6:00 p.m. None other than the dynamic pastor, Rev. Claude R. Alexander, Jr., of University Park Baptist Church in Charlotte, NC, will deliver the Tuesday night message on September 9. On Wednesday and Thursday, September 10-11, at 7:00 p.m., Dr. Charles Booth from Mt. Olivet Baptist Church, in Columbus, Ohio will deliver the message.

Culminating events will take place on Friday, September 12. The evening will close with renowned recording artists, Oleta Adams and The Williams Brothers in a Shekinah Glory Revival Gala Concert. Look for more information on ticket sales.

Dr. Sir Walter Mack, Jr. requested to speak at Harvard University

The 2003 Summer Leadership Institute at Harvard University selected Rev. Dr. Sir Walter Mack, Jr. to be the guest speaker at the institution's first worship service for participants. Dr. Mack was one of a select group of individuals from across the country accepted into the Summer Leadership Institute as a scholar, but was later requested to speak at the Sunday worship service.

The Summer Leadership Institute (SLI) is a cutting edge training program for clergy and lay leaders from across the country involved in faith-based community and economic development. Harvard University states that most clergy and lay leaders involved in rebuilding and revitalizing their neighborhoods recognize that during the past several years their responsibilities and the needs of their communities have become more complex. Because of his commitment to community and economic development, Dr. Mack will use information garnered in the SLI to empower members of his congregation as well as provide training on the knowledge gained to other faith-based organizations and churches.

"With the ever-changing climate in local and national government," Dr.

Mack said, "it is increasingly more important for churches and faith based organizations to consider decreasing financial aid of the governments and develop solutions for social and economic problems on all levels." SLI will do in depth studies to explore and address issues related to jobs, housing, education, health, criminal justice, and social services.

The teaching staff includes world-renowned speakers, writers, theologians and educators including Cornel West, William C. Apgar, Robert Franklin and Christine Letts. "I feel blessed to have the opportunity to learn from and share with some of the most brilliant minds in spirituality and education. Being requested to speak at Harvard University is an honor within itself and to say I cherish this opportunity is an understatement at best," Dr. Mack said.

After applying to the program he received a telephone call that informed him that for the first time in the history of the program the students would attend Sunday worship service together; Dr. Sir Walter Mack will make history as the first speaker for the program.

The Summer Leadership Institute was held at Harvard University in June 2003.



Brandons graduate from Harvard Business School together

Wesley and Edrienne Brandon graduated from the Harvard Business School on June 5, 2003. They both received a Masters in Business Administration or MBA degree. The two-year program they completed focused on general management and leadership.

Wesley is originally from Fuquay-Varina, NC. He attended Fuquay-Varina Elementary, Fuquay-Varina Middle School, and Fuquay-Varina High School. At FVHS, Wesley played football, was on the Student Council, and was in the Beta Club. Wesley graduated from Fuquay-Varina High School with honors in 1993.

Edrienne grew up in Anchorage, Alaska. She attended Scenic Park Elementary, Wendler Junior High, and Bartlett High School. At BHS, Edrienne played volleyball, was in the band, and was the Student Body President. Edrienne graduated from Bartlett High School with honors in 1993.

Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Brandon met

while attending Duke University. While at Duke, Wesley was President of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., a Resident Advisor, and selected as the Black Student Alliance Sophomore Man of the Year. Wesley graduated from Duke in 1997 with a Bachelor of Science in Engineering degree in both Biomedical Engineering and Electrical Engineering with minors in Math and Chemistry.

Edrienne was Freshman and Sophomore Class President, the Drum Major of the Duke Band, and the Student Speaker at Duke Graduation. Edrienne graduated from Duke in 1997 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Public Policy Studies, a minor in African-American Studies, and a certificate in Markets and Management.

Wesley and Edrienne married at the Duke University Chapel in July 2000.

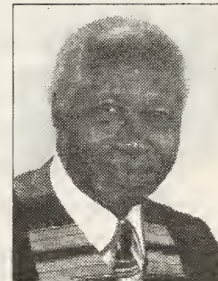
The proud parents are (Edrienne) SCSM Edward and Marta Mason, (Wesley) Wesley and Portia Brandon.

Reverend Robinson Retires

Submitted by Carrie B. Johnson

Reverend Jeremiah Robinson of New Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Charlotte, NC announced he would retire January 26, 2003 after 18 years of service. After the amazement of the announcement, a banquet was held in his honor on January 25 at the Shelton/Airport Hotel. With over 300 family members and friends in attendance and Dr. Clifford Jones, pastor of Friendship Missionary Baptist Church as the guest speaker, the celebration was really a gala affair with a good time had by all. Numerous tributes were given

and many wonderful things were said about Reverend Robinson that will be remembered by all. Through tears and laughter, much respect and love were shown to him. Reverend Robinson stated in a teary voice a warm felt "thank you, thank you, thank you" and he added that the Lord sure has been good to him and that time brings on changes and that he now was moving to another level in his life. The evening ended with many hugs, tears, and smiles.

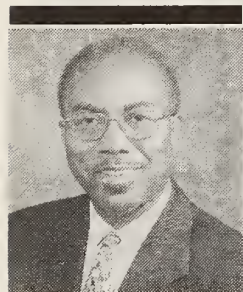


Rev. Jeremiah Robinson

TELLING IT LIKE IT IS: "Do We Really Believe What We Say?"

By Dr. James W. Smith

It is amazing to me how Baptists and especially Missionary Baptists



Dr. James W. Smith

talk about autonomy. You suggest something to them and the first thing you hear is my church is autonomous and we can do whatever we want to do.

That word is thrown around like it is some kind of ball. What is most surprising is that while we throw the word around, I am finding that we really do not understand its true meaning. The Missionary Baptist Church is an autonomous body of believers. This means that it is self governed, ruled by a majority vote of its membership at properly called and scheduled busi-

ness meetings. Each congregation of the Missionary Baptist Church is independent from all other congregations. Neither one person nor group of persons apart from the local congregation controls or directs any local church in any way. Now there is much more that could be said about the meaning of autonomy, but I want to share something that I believe speaks to this matter.

Some months ago, I received a call from a minister who stated that he allowed an individual who happened to be a female to preach her initial sermon. Later the church voted to license her to preach. His concern as expressed to me was that after the church had licensed the preacher, the association in which his church was affiliated, voted to exclude his church from fellowship and affiliation with the association. The association did not recognize or license female preachers and no longer wanted to be associated with a church that licensed female preachers. The minister want-

ed to know from me what he and his church could do. Honestly, I told him that I didn't know. This was an interesting situation to me. I thought that most of our churches and associations were licensing and ordaining females regardless of any personal belief. I have later discovered I was wrong. Anyway, as I continued to ponder the matter, it occurred to me that this was truly an issue of autonomy.

I would like to raise the issues: 1) Does an association have the right to dictate to a pastor or church what it can or should not do? 2) Can an association withdraw its fellowship and affiliation with a church because the church performs some act that is contrary to the belief of the association? Most of us would conclude that an association does not have the right to dictate to a pastor or church what it can or should not do, and we would perhaps also conclude that an association has the right to withdraw fellowship and affiliation with a church which does not con-

form to the belief of the association. However, following this logic could lead many associations and churches to sever their relationships. If it were true autonomy, it would seem that the church could license and ordain females and still be allowed to maintain her fellowship and affiliation with the association. If it were true autonomy, it would seem that the association could exercise its right of belief and not license or ordain females, also. True autonomy respects the right of the other to be an autonomous body and not punish or ridicule the other one for doing so. Think about it. Do we really believe what we say?

If I can be of service to you, please do not hesitate to contact me: Dr. James W. Smith, Chairperson, Legal/Constitution Committee, General Baptist State Convention of NC, Inc., 146 Presidents Drive, Durham, NC 27704; (919) 479-0501; e-mail: Jsmith9450@aol.com.

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CONTACT US TODAY

By Reverend Gwendolyn Horton

Part 1

I am writing this article to Christians with a prayer that they will ponder the vision of this message. This article and others will feature women in the ministry along with their goals and aspirations to be witnesses of the Lord. It is my assignment as directed by the Holy Spirit to share with readers through numerous publications that God in His divine wisdom equipped women to serve His people. It is my goal to assist women with fulfilling their calling from God. As recorded in Daniel 12:3, any woman willing to commit herself to this high calling and holy responsibility will indeed be rewarded.

This ministry has come at a time that I have been assessing my future and intensively seeking God's directions for my spiritual walk. As a child of God I am well aware that difficult times will fall upon the just as well as the unjust. I could and have lamented over my plight, but in my pain I heard a word, get up and be about your Lord's business. I said, "Lord, what shall I do, the stress that I have been through has created such disappointment and pain." During my lamentation I heard a song that is based on God's word as recorded in 1 Samuel 17:47, "for the battle is not yours it is the Lord's, and He will give you into our hands."

I am also reminded of a text that has ministered to my soul found in Isaiah 6:8, "Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: 'Whom shall I send, And who will go for us?' Then I said, 'Here am I send me.'" My recent career difficulties have placed me in an environment that a question had to be addressed by me and me alone. Where is your faith? I have always said my faith is in the Lord. Life difficulties will force you to search your heart deeper. Have you confessed or possessed faith in your life?

My brothers and sisters, don't fool yourself that man or woman will stay with you until the end, self-preservation will always prevail. Some may view this document as Lord why have thou forsaken me; but please don't, this article is intended for the healing of some other souls.

As appealing as the "market-place" is for some women, many find only disappointment and emptiness if they choose to invest their time in fleeting achievements. Even in the workforce, your greatest satisfaction is to be found in your life in Christ and your sharing that

with others, whether from your home or office. I have reached the realization that no matter what position or circumstance, you will find ultimate joy and happiness only in Jesus Christ. You will be effective only as you serve in the place and in the manner God directs. No task is insignificant when God calls you to do it.

Also as I pen this article, I am reflecting over my three years of graduate studies at Shaw's Divinity School and the wealth of knowledge and confirmation I received as a student under some of the most supportive administrative and professional staff that any of us could have possibly hoped for.

Dr. Helen McLaughlin called me several years ago while I was praying for direction from God concerning my role in the ministry. I was asking the Lord to show me the way to go on with my spiritual journey. I had not followed through with God's instructions to seek further biblical training. I made myself busy with church work and pretended that I was fulfilling my calling. We must learn how to listen to God. Well, that night the phone rang and interrupted by prayer time, and the voice said "hello, this is Helen McLaughlin from Shaw's Divinity School." I didn't know her at the time and it had shocked me while I was praying for God's direction that she would be calling me at the same time to follow up my application. I had applied to attend Shaw Divinity a couple of years earlier, and had been accepted.

She explained that she was calling some students that had been accepted to attend Shaw, but failed to show up on registration day, and she was concerned about this trend. I explained to Dr. McLaughlin that so many people had discouraged me in my calling that I allowed a spirit of fear to be planted in my heart. She asked me to meet her at school the next day to have a personal conversation concerning my calling into the gospel ministry. She guided me through an understanding of God and that He cares for women. She stated that when God calls you to do something, don't allow anyone to stand in your path, for God is with you. Her guidance has challenged me and I accept it as an infinite part of God's calling for me to do yet greater works. My enrollment into Shaw's Divinity School was a foreordained day by God by using His servant, Dr. Helen McLaughlin. She later became my instructor of Women in the Ministry.

In every school as with Shaw Divinity there are administrators that assist students with meeting their academic and financial requirements. Such staffs as Stella Goldston, Dr. Linda Bryan, Dr. Darrell Rollins, and Dr. James Arnette were invaluable resources that encouraged us during our enrollment at Shaw. I wish

to thank those individuals for all that they have offered me and the other students at Shaw Divinity School. I had originally listed some of my experiences with some instructors, but elected to include them in name only as a statement of appreciation for their dedication to the Students of 1997's Class: Dr. Joseph Paige, Dr. Helen McLaughlin, Dr. Frank Weaver, Dr. Sandra Gravett, Dr. Portia T. Williamson, Dr. James Z. Alexander, Dr. Gregory Headen, Dr. Donald Millholland, Dr. Charles Bullock, Dr. David Forbes and Dr. James Arnette. I didn't have classes with Dr. Randolph Tripp and Dr. Ronald Morris, but I must include their names on my appreciation list; they were well respected and loved by their students.

While attending Shaw we were all respected as women and men on fire for the Lord: studying under instructors with every expectation that we develop skills to rightfully divide the word of God. We developed an appreciation of who we were in the gospel ministry during that period of our lives. How is it possible to preach, teach and minister to others of God's grace and mercy if we didn't have a clear understanding of our life's journey? I shall always remember the phrase echoed by Dr. Joseph Paige, *we are always becoming, it does not yet appear who we will become in Christ.*

In appreciation as well, I must mention that a trip to Israel had always been my prayer. I could not imagine completing my studies without visiting Israel. I inquired of my classmates whether or not they had such an interest and was delighted that so many expressed the same desire. Dr. Sandy Gravette, Old Testament instructor, was assigned by the Divinity's School to coordinate the trip for the students. The trip was a huge success and all of us received personal blessings from that experience. Dr. David Forbes and Dr. Greg Headen accompanied us on the trip to Israel, as well.

Sunday morning during our trip, Dr. Forbes called us into a separate dining room and preached a word from the Lord and served us communion. Dr. Forbes made it clear that he was not about to travel to Israel and not preach. We were all delighted with his insight to bless our trip with a message from the Lord; and commemorate the death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ.

The Graduation ceremony was a day of jubilation and a statement of faith, God we have studied to show ourselves approved to preach, teach and guide others to a closer relationship with Christ. As we walked across the Shaw University's campus to the Raleigh Civic Center, I do believe that God petitioned an angel to escort me to the graduation.

There are several powerful lessons or understandings I obtained while attending

Divinity School that are listed below; however, please be clear that my understandings and experiences may not be the same as others.

The need for women to read and understand the Bible in the context in which it was written made an invaluable impact on my ability to interpret the words of the Bible. God has included women in the ministries throughout the Bible, but somehow we have been taught otherwise. As a student at Shaw, I developed an appreciation of Bible Commentaries and other biblical resources. I cannot adequately describe in words my experiences with these resources; they have challenged and opened my mind to other scholarly interpretations of the Bible. I as well as other students entered school with what I call a tunnel view. I discovered that each person's tunnel view had been molded by several factors: the teachings within their local church and association, life experiences and personal biblical assumptions.

Prior to Divinity School, I was not exposed to world religion leaders' scholarly discussions. We had several opportunities to hear from individuals of other religions to share their faith and why their belief system. I have participated with ecumenical services before; however, discussing your faith with others whose belief system was not that of Christianity was indeed a challenge for all the students. We left that class with a newfound respect for others' faith. I must admit, I questioned the wisdom of having such visitors. However, what is the value of Divinity School or your faith if you can't tolerate a discussion of another person's faith that differs from your faith?

Most of the men in our classes were already serving as pastors; and they felt the need to further their knowledge and understanding of God's Holy Word. The women in my classes were very active in church and had served faithfully and truly loved the Lord with all their hearts. They had not received a pastor calling, but they were willing to prepare themselves for future assignments. Most of us had not been licensed or ordained in the gospel ministry, but we entered the vintage on faith. Many of these women have now been licensed or/and ordained. Since graduation, some of these faithful women have established churches and ministries and serve as pastors or directors of ministry.

I have nothing but pure hallelujah praise and deep admiration for all my sisters in the ministry that have applied their knowledge and love for the Lord to establish churches and ministries under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

[To be continued next month.]



Rev. Gwendolyn Horton

The Church and our children's education

By Minister Danielle Rome-Briggs

"To whom much is given, much is required ..." This familiar scripture resonates so loudly in my spirit for two reasons – the church is better equipped with people power today than it ever has been in the past, yet our children are languishing in the school systems around this nation. What qualifies me to declare this assertion, I see them daily and have seen them over the past eight years in my career in higher education. Whether in my capacity as an Instructor of English at the University of Northern Iowa, Xavier University of Louisiana, Southern University at New Orleans, or in my administrative capacity in the New Orleans Public Schools as a Data Manager and as an Academic Advisor and Coordinator of Peer Tutorials at Saint Augustine's College, the trend is alarming and quite disturbing. The academic deficiencies that become apparent as minority youth venture to the college or university of their choice are staggering – many are barely reading and are dramatically mathematically challenged. Yet on Sunday mornings many of our congregations are bursting at the seams with bright young professionals who are scarcely aware of dilemma facing the young people in their midst. W. E. B. Dubois wrote of the "Talented Tenth" within the African American community and their responsibility to assist those within that same community who may not be as well endowed but who would greatly benefit from their assistance. The need of this present age is equally as great and the giftedness in our midst far surpasses that of days gone by. Unfortunately, the principle difference between this era and those bygone days is that we are quick to point the finger of guilt and blame at others in the larger community when the needs of our children and young adults are not being met in ways which we ourselves could satisfy. We have purposely forgotten that the Church is to impact the world, not be victimized by it. Yet daily our young people are victimized twice, first by the educational systems that are predominantly of the mind that they can only learn so much and can not be duly challenged and then by the Church who would rather appear sanctimonious than become an impacting force in their lives.

What can we as the Church do to impact the education of our children? Knowledge is power – we have got to make ourselves aware of what is going

on in our nation's educational systems. What are the strategic plans to address the areas of academic deficiency for our young people? How are they becoming deficient if they are attending classes regularly? What do the curricula emphasize in elementary and secondary schools? How many parents are involved in PTA at the schools that surround our local assemblies? What supplemental programs are available to the students to address the issues of need? How many students in our local assemblies are

having academic difficulty?

Who in our local assemblies is equipped to assist students in academic

crisis? Who in our local assemblies is willing to sacrifice to assist students in academic crisis? These are the kinds of questions that need to be addressed so that our young people will be well equipped to meet the challenges of this 21st century.

What are some of the challenges that our young children are facing?

The most significant areas of need across all demographics are very familiar, reading, writing, and arithmetic. Additionally, problem solving and critical thinking are extremely problematic. These areas are of critical import as educational systems are becoming increasingly test-driven. From the earliest possible grades, students are being tested and too many of our young people are simply not making the grade. So many factors have combined to exacerbate these difficulties but at the heart of the issue are the following:

• **Changes in Pedagogy** – The old familiar methodology of teaching, [lecture, demonstrate, engage, reiterate, participate], has been largely replaced with a technological approach that to some degree negates the contact of pupil and teacher. Many students today have complex issues with the means in which they can most effectively learn. They must have the additional time and attention, not necessarily in the classroom, but from someone, to fully grasp relevant material and practice relevant skills.

• **Disciplinary Concerns** – Many young people are thrust into the school systems devoid of an understanding of the proper behavior for such a setting.

These unruly individuals distract and detract from the enterprise of education as too much time is wasted in the classroom addressing behaviors that are best addressed by parents in the home.

• **Academic Support Services** –

Statistics have shown that the course of the school days is not enough time for students to get all that they need in order to meet with academic proficiency and success. School systems nationwide have turned to educational software and program developers to flesh

out programs that meet the needs of their student populations. Programs and software packages such

as Target Teach, H.O.S.T.S. [Help One Student To Succeed], A+, and innumerable others are being utilized with great success. What drives the success of such initiatives? Volunteers from the communities.

The most important factor for consideration – These are merely three of the factors that I have personally witnessed to have a significant impact on the educational experiences of our young people. However, the one most powerful piece of this educational puzzle is undeniable – the people factor. Volunteerism is so significant in the lives of young people as it demonstrates compassion for their needs, models prioritizing education, reiterates the lessons introduced in the classroom, provides opportunity for practicing new skills, and develops relationships founded in mutual respect. What better place to cultivate knowledge and nurture our young people than through the volunteer efforts of the Church?

The power of the Church to impact the world of educational opportunity – The Church is uniquely positioned to impact the educational opportunities of the youth to whom it ministers both locally, in the local assemblies, and communally through the work of Christian Education departments and the Congress of Christian Education within local and state associations. Curricula must be devised to speak to the needs of the youth within the body and within the surrounding communities. The services of qualified individuals must be enlisted to address these pressing academic needs for the

youth.

As a certified instructor of Writing Techniques I, Writing Techniques II, and Public Speaking through the Sunday School Publishing Board of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc., Congress of Christian Education, my courses were well attended by those who desired to improve their written and oral communication skills. Within the midst of these students was a good intermingling of young people, from junior high, to senior high, to college ready students seeking to fill the gap of academic deficiencies. I did for each of them what I did for my university students, present a body of knowledge, challenge their preconceived notions, nurture their ready talent, and empower them to go farther and to do more than they first believed that they could. The basics are what they needed, just that little something extra to equip them for the reality that was so ready to confront them. The need is there and the Church would be remiss if it did not seize the opportunity of this God given role – "Standing in the Gap".

What have we done? Many churches across this state and this nation have embraced this challenge by incorporating supplemental curricula and programming for the good of the students within their midst. At Mount Zoar Baptist Church where I am privileged to worship, teach, and serve under the pastorate of the Rev. Dr. D. S. Briggs, who is also my husband, the vision has been caught – we must stand in this gap. The CLC, Computer Learning Center, is a reality where young people within this Durham community can come to find the nurture and challenge to supplement what they have learned in their respective schools. They can receive tutoring in reading, language arts, mathematics, and Spanish from volunteers from within the body of Mount Zoar BC membership. The vital relationship between the church and the school, in this case Merrick Moore Elementary School that is directly across the street from the sanctuary, is a collaborative effort for the good of the community. There is no charge for anyone to attend. That is what it takes to impact the educational experience of these young people – we should do no less than strive to nurture them in every respect but we must always strive to do more to be relevant to the lives of the young people within our midst. They are our future and the future is now!

RURAL AFRICAN AMERICAN CHURCH

By Reverend D. S. Briggs

In our last article, we stated that we must begin to reshape our view of the Rural African American Church. Clergy and churches, not simply one or the other, must change this view. Both need to transform their thinking about each other and the church so we can be effective for Kingdom Building. We must no longer as ministers, pastors, and servants look at the Rural church as the proverbial "red haired, freckle faced stepchild" to what real ministry and church is all about. The Rural church is not the milkman's child, but the Lord's. Therefore we should treat her as the Lord's and not anybody else's. Regardless of our personal goals and desires for our life and the ministry that Christ has so graciously given us, these churches do not deserve less attention and care than other larger churches. They are not stepping stones, nor are they places to just learn how to preach. They are God's people! Douglas Alan Walrath in writing the forward of the book *Activating Leadership in the Small Church; Clergy and Laity Working Together* writes ... "Such viewpoints are hardly warranted. Only the most crass perspective could hold that those who are members of small churches deserve consistently lower-quality, less experienced pastoral care than those who are members of large churches."

The Scripture teaches us in Romans 12:2 ... And be not conformed to this world; but be transformed by the renewing of your minds that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God. Have we erroneously conformed our thinking that there is no hope for the rural church? No need for our spirit, sermons, services, and strength? That the words of the Gloria Patria are in reality the Spiritual National Anthem of the Rural Church ... "As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be?" May the Lord forgive us.

Our God is not limited by our location! The Word of God says "But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things that are mighty; and base things of the world, and things that are despised, hath God chosen, yea and things which are not to bring to nought things that are: that no flesh should glory in His presence." (I Corinthians 1:27-29) God uses foolish things to bless that which is least, littlest, leftover, and last, that all glory

shall go to Him, and Him alone. He is still the Lord God Holy and Omnipotent. If He has all power, then why do we not believe He does not have the power to work out whatever needs to be worked out? Have we truly trusted Him to lead our churches? Or are we using man's rules and guidelines, precepts and plans only to be frustrated when they create more strife and division. Then we call God to come see about us, come on in and fix the mess we have created? Thank God for mercy!

Many churches and clergy, desperate to see the hand of God moving in their midst and ministry wonder silently and often aloud "what can we do?" The rural church however, hears this cry or complaint at almost every crisis, controversy, and conflict in its life. It has been indelibly printed on the psyche of the rural church. However upon closer examination this is often a statement of hopelessness and not a question of hope. This is more declarative of our frustration than it is an interrogative of our faith. From leaders to laity, the pulpit to the pew, this statement is par for the course, per se in all of our churches. We have tried ... we have beaten our heads against the proverbial walls ... we have given birth to that which has been cannibalized by those we serve. Therefore I would rather abort what God birthed in me, than bring to life to see it killed by those who do not care or seem concerned how important it is to ministry here at this location.

Problems are met not with faith and fortitude, but fear, fastidiousness, and frustration. Instead of being seen as opportunities to serve the Lord Jesus and to serve this present age, they are seen as opportunities to separate and splinter the congregation into competing factions. Seniors competing against juniors. Males in opposition against females. This family against that family. The proverbial and ever dangerous Hatfields versus the McCoys. Disagreement quickly leads to dissension and ultimate division. Instead of journeying together to see just how the Lord will truly make a way out of no way, we throw up our hands and resign ourselves to mediocrity in ministry at all levels. Until we learn how to tap into the passion of the Rural church we will always feel burned out, wore out and left out. The Rural Church is not known for what they do but for who they are. The value of lasting relationships forged over time, testing and trials is the cohesive factor in being both

faithful and successful in rural church ministry. Institutional loyalty is the order of the day. They do not celebrate how they got through, they celebrate that "somehow" they got through. It is like being the visitor to a family reunion. No matter how shoddy you may feel the preparations, accommodations and presentations, you better watch as well as pray before you speak to it. They did it before you, and they will do it after you. You want them to want to do it, with you. So does the Lord.

What can we do? I am going to modify a gymnastic acronym and adapt it for our conversation for the next few articles. "K.I.S.S." which means for our discussion Keep It Simple Saints. The simpler we keep it, especially in the rural church, the longer and more fruitful our ministries will be. Sometimes the words of Festus to Paul could well apply to us "much learning doth make thee mad". (Acts 26:24) Perhaps we have over analyzed our difficulties on our churches. We have seen what works in the types of ministries we want to be in, but not where we are serving right now. We try to make them over to be like the church we want them to be instead of what God wants them to be. Likewise they try to make us over into the type of pastor that they felt loved them the most in their history. Therefore we realize sooner or later that many of our proposed plans will not work in our present situation. Why? Because we are so busy trying to change each other instead of letting the Holy Spirit do the changing. That is His job, and not ours.

Our challenge is to **Keep It Simple Saints**. Do not overcomplicate what God is trying to do through you for His people. It does not matter if you take a baby step or a giant step, as long as it is a step in the direction God wants His church to go. Celebrate but do not trivialize every victory, no matter how seemingly small or insignificant to you. These serve as steps to your spiritual success in this station and season of ministry. Remember they can not see the big picture all at once but you can. That is why God called you. You write the vision and make it plain. They have to be able to read it before they can run with it. God called them to watch and follow you. After seeing the steps, sooner or later they will see it for themselves.

Every church needs to go back to

the basics and remember who we really are, and what we are really supposed to be doing, and who we are really serving according to the Bible. We need a review and a refresher of what it means to be Baptist. Many of the failures we perceive and others proclaim of the Baptist church is in reality a failure of the Baptist church not to adhere to what it biblically and theologically means to be Baptist. We need to never forget that the world rewards success, but God rewards faithfulness. We must not only preach faithfulness, and teach faithfulness, but practice it ourselves when it comes to the churches that we serve. Faithfulness to and with God does not always look like success in the eyes of the world.

Finally, beloved **Be Sure of your Calling**. Ephesians 4:1 declares that we are to walk worthy of the vocation wherewith we have been called. As ministers of the Gospel of Grace we must know beyond a shadow of a doubt that the Lord has called us not only to preach but to pastor. If God has not called you to pastor, please do not take the position regardless to who offers it to you. Many churches have called preachers to pastor that were never called and commanded by God to pastor. They extended the call based on the display of other gifts, abilities, connections, and talents, that while perhaps supplementing the calling of a pastor, is not the biblical mark of a called pastor. Many preachers accept any church to pastor so they can preach on a regular basis, or thinking that being a pastor somehow confirms their calling from God. If you accept anything, you have to deal with anything.

Next we must know that He has called us to that particular congregation. Did the Lord say to accept that church? That He had prepared both that congregation for you and you for that congregation? We should not accept any church, regardless of location, prestige, and pay simply because they have asked us to serve them. Even if the decision is unanimous we should see if this is truly the Lord's will for us to serve this particular congregation.

For if the Lord truly sent us as we say on installation evening, then this drastically alters the way many of us look at serving any church. The Lord calls us for reasons and seasons. When both are fulfilled He will let you know in such a manner you do not have to ask anyone else if you should move on. Until that day occurs, you must be

See RURAL AFRICAN, page 35

J.J. JOHNSON CAMP

J.J. JOHNSON BAPTIST ASSEMBLY INFORMATION

The Site:

The J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly is a tract of land comprising seventy-five (75) or more acres, much of which is covered with a mixture of North Carolina Pine, red and white oak trees. The location of the Baptist Assembly is on more than 75 rolling acres in Laurel Hill, North Carolina in Scotland County.

In 1967, approximately two-thirds of the acreage was donated by Dr. and Mrs. Joy J. Johnson and their daughter, Deborah (Mrs. Alexander Killiens). Additional acres were purchased by the Woman's Convention and General Baptist State Convention.

Our Purpose:

The purpose of the J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly in Laurel Hill is to provide a setting that is Christian in its atmosphere and is conducive to learning, worship, and meeting the needs of all individuals whom we serve. It seeks to provide opportunities for everyone to learn habits of good citizenship, and it provides at the same time opportunities to reach a maximum potential for Christian fellowship and fun experiences through democratic ideals and living.

The facility exists for the exclusive use by religious groups and/or organizations with similar aims regardless of ethnic origin.

Meeting Facilities:

At the J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly, there are various meeting facilities available. Listed below are the seating capacity (theater style) and lodging:

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| ◆ Rowan Association Chapel | Seating Capacity: 300-400 |
| ◆ Horne Lodge | Seating Capacity: 20-25, Sleeps 12 |
| ◆ Alston Lodge | Seating Capacity: 100, Sleeps 64 |
| ◆ Lumber Bridge Association Lodge | Seating Capacity: 100, Sleeps 64 |
| ◆ Brown Assembly Dining Hall
(Cafeteria Style) | Seating Capacity: 200 |

Individuals should bring their own linen, blankets, soap and other toiletries for the lodging facilities.

*"And gathered them out of the lands, from the east,
and from the west, from the north, and from the south."
Psalm 107:3*

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Current Annual Events

During the course of the year, the Conventional Family sponsors different ministries at the J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly. Among these are the following:

- ◆ Vacation Bible School (GBSC) – March
- ◆ Ministers' Wives Retreat (WBSC) – May
- ◆ Laymen's League Mini-Skills Retreat (GBSC) – May
- ◆ Leadership Training Conference (GBSC) – June
- ◆ Youth Bible Camp (WBSC) – June
- ◆ Laymen's League Boy's Summer Retreat (GBSC) – July
- ◆ Laymen's League Scouting Jamboree (GBSC) – August
- ◆ Laymen's League Men's Retreat (GBSC) – September
- ◆ North Carolina Branch of the 9th and 10th Calvary (Buffalo Soldiers) – October
- ◆ Usher's Retreat/Workshop (GBSC) – November
- ◆ Laymen's League Planning Session – December

The campus is available year round for meetings, weddings, banquets, family reunions, and other activities. Contact Rev. Eric Harris for the policies and procedures regarding each type of event.

Send Applications & Funds to:
General Baptist State Convention
J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly
603 S. Wilmington Street
Raleigh, NC 27601

(Make checks payable to J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly)

Sources: "1974" Brochure and the J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly Guide And Handbook (1985).

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PASTORS

HAYNES GROVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH - Cliffside, NC is currently accepting applications for a pastor. Interested applicants should respond to:

Haynes Grove Missionary Baptist Church
Attn: Deacon Eli Smith
Pulpit Committee
P.O. Box 651
Cliffside, N.C. 28024

FIRST AFRICAN BAPTIST CHURCH - Goldsboro, NC is currently accepting resumes for the position of **Senior Pastor**. The church is affiliated with the Bear Creek Missionary Baptist Association and

the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc.

Interested persons should possess the following qualifications:

- Licensed ordained Baptist Minister
- Born again Christian
- Ability to preach/teach and have administrative skills
- Knowledgeable of Baptist doctrine, policies and procedures
- Copies of ministerial license and ordination certification
- College degree and some seminary training
- References: business/personal
- Other criteria will be discussed during interviews.

Mail resumes to:

First African Baptist Church
Attn: Deacon David Rogers
P. O. Box 1456
Goldsboro, North Carolina 27533
Deadline for resumes is September 30, 2003.

CHAPEL HILL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH - Autryville, NC: seeks a pastor to serve as its spiritual leader, teacher, counselor, and administrator.

Some requirements are as followed:

- Must be born-again as evidenced by character and dedication
- Licensed, ordained Baptist minister
- Ability to preach/teach and have administrative skills
- Five years of pastoral experience preferred
- Some theological courses completed, and continuing
- Knowledge of Baptist doctrine, policies and procedures
- A resume, letter of interest, including a vision statement of their ministry
- Legible copies of ministerial license and ordination certification
- References: Include name, address and phone number, (1) Family reference, (1) Business reference, (1) Professional reference and (2) references from pastors familiar with your character and ministry
- Other criteria will be discussed during interviews

Please mail any applications/resumes and/or related material to:

Chapel Hill Missionary Baptist Church
Attn: Deacon Bobby R. McAllister
1450 Sivertsen Road
PO Box 434
Autryville, NC 28318-8064
Ph.: (910) 567-2961

POPLAR SPRINGS MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH of Roaring River, North Carolina is seeking a Pastor. We are accepting resumes from interested applicants. Qualifications:

- Must be a Born-Again Christian
- Licensed Ordained Minister, with certifications to prove it.
- Preferred Pastoral Experience
- Must be able to preach and teach, as well as communicate with all ages
- Strong leadership qualities.

Send resumes to:

Deacon Board
2265 White Plains Rd.
Roaring River, North Carolina 28669

MILL NECK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH - Como, NC: currently accepting applications for a Pastor with strong Missionary Baptist roots. We are affiliated with the West Roanoke Missionary Baptist Association and the General Baptist State convention. Interested applicants should provide a resume to: Carolyn M. Farrow, Secretary, Pastor Search Committee, Mill Neck Missionary Baptist Church, P.O. Box 68, Mill Neck Rd., Como, NC 27818.

MOUNT ZION FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH 320 W. Thomas Street • Rocky Mount, NC 27801

This is an appeal to any members, former members, friends and/or acquaintances of the Mt. Zion First Baptist Church, Rocky Mount, NC.

We, the Archives and History Auxiliary, would like to obtain copies of photos of all former pastors of Mt. Zion in an effort to honor these men of God with a Pastoral Gallery. We would like to dedicate the Gallery during our church's anniversary in November.

Anyone who has photos of former pastors and is willing to share them, please contact the church office (252-442-1627) weekdays between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. We need photos of the following pastors: 1st pastor - Cain Gibbs; 2nd - Cain Barnes; 3rd - George Norwood; 4th - George Smith; 5th - Simon Hicks; 6th - Daniel Martin; 9th - Nathaniel Marriot; 10th - R.A. Morrissey; and 14th - Rev. Hunter

Anyone who would like to send a copy of a photograph, please do so by mailing it to the above address, to the attention of Mrs. Nancy Gary Joyner, President of the Archives and History Auxiliary.

Thank You and God Bless!

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"When Building Is Done Better, We'll Do It"

To Minister, Trustee and Church Members,
Dear Christian Leader and Friends,

It is my hope that I will be a help to you in your next building project. Although you may not have a plan that exactly fits your needs, I may help you find a starting point to develop your own plan.

I have built and designed more than 45 churches in my 55 years of general contracting.

Church building should be compatible with their neighborhoods. The quality of construction, design, and landscaping should create a meaningful setting which is an inspiration to its members and the community.

When you consult with me, my first step is a detailed inquiry of the various programs at your church. This enables me to understand the main focus of your ministry and it helps you understand my services. Our first meeting is to get acquainted and find out your needs.

The second step is providing a master plan of your entire church property and renderings or models of the proposed buildings.

The third step is preparing your construction drawings which include:

1. Sound systems
2. Special lighting effects
3. Design plans
4. Structural design
5. Energy saving heating and cooling
6. Specifications (in laypersons language)

I have found that coordinating all of these design phases through one firm avoids costly delays, misunderstanding and mistakes during constructions.

There are many phases in church planning and design which require a specialist in that field. When you start your next building program, I hope you will give me a call.

At Your Service,
Thomas L. Jones

CLASSIFIEDS

BUNCOMBE BAPTIST CHURCH – Lexington, NC: accepting resumes from interested licensed ordained Missionary Baptist ministers.

Qualifications:

- Born again Christian
- Concerned with spiritual and intellectual growth of the church
- Ability to preach and teach God's Word
- Must be willing to teach and follow the Baptist Doctrines, policies and practices
- Ability to work with all age groups in the church
- Ability to carry out administrative, leadership and counseling duties
- Work cooperatively with church officials
- Family and community oriented
- Teach Bible Study and attend Sunday School and prayer meetings
- Theological and/or Seminary training preferred
- Good communications skills
- Must be a good role model of moral and ethical conduct

Please send resumes and inquiries to: Buncombe Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1533, Lexington, NC 27293.

GUILDFIELD M.B. CHURCH – New Bern, NC: currently accepting applications for a Pastor. Guildfield M.B. Church is an established church with a rich heritage in Eastern North Carolina. It is a growing congregation with active ministries focusing on the youth, senior citizens, the musical department, and Christian Education

activities. Regular worship services are held every Sunday morning at 11:00 a.m. The church has membership in the Old Eastern Missionary Baptist Association.

PASTORAL DUTIES

- Serve as Senior Pastor and preach the Gospel
- Provide insight for spiritual growth of the church and outreach efforts
- Plan and implement Christian education opportunities for the membership
- Serve as an ex-officio member of all church auxiliaries
- Provide leadership to associate ministers affiliated with the church

QUALIFICATIONS

- Must be saved and have a personal relationship with the Lord
 - Must be ordained to preach and be able to serve as an administrator of a local congregation
 - Must possess interpersonal skills that facilitate interaction with church members and various community resources
 - Must possess leadership abilities
 - Must have personal stamina and enthusiasm to encourage the spiritual growth of the congregation
 - Must have at least two years of experience in church leadership in some capacity and some Bible school training
- Resumes will be accepted until the position is filled. To apply, send resume to the attention of Mrs. Vesta Mullins, Chairperson of the Pastoral Search

Committee, at the church's address. For more information call Rev. Carolyn Squires, Committee Co-Chairperson at 252-638-4726.

836 Green Street
P.O. Box 12881
New Bern, NC 28560
252-633-2388

OAKLEY GROVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH – Clayton, NC: currently accepting applications for a Pastor with strong Missionary Baptist roots. We are affiliated with the Johnston District Missionary Baptist Association and the General Baptist State Convention. Interested applicants should provide the following:

1. A resume
2. Personal references

Send information to:

Oakey Grove Baptist Church
Pulpit Search Committee
Deacon Loomis Hodges, Chairperson
PO Box 2435
Smithfield, NC 27577

UNION GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH, Warrenton, NC: currently accepting applications for a Pastor. Interested applicants should provide the following:

A Resume
Send information to:
Brother Alonza Jones, Board Chairman
Pastor Search Committee
Route 2, Box 128
Norlina, NC 27563

FIRST MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH Thomasville, NC: currently accepting applications for a Pastor with strong Missionary Baptist roots. We are

REGISTRATION AND REPRESENTATION FORM

136th Annual Session

GENERAL BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION

OCTOBER 26 - 30, 2003

DR. CHARLES T. BULLOCK, PRESIDENT • DR. ARCHIE D. LOGAN, JR., EXECUTIVE SECRETARY TREASURER

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800-639-GBSC (4272) • 919/821-7466 • MC - VISA

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704-549-4888 • Fax 704-942-2999
Singles/Doubles \$59.00 + tax
DEADLINE: OCT. 6, 2003

PULPIT VACANCY

NEW LIGHT MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH HALLSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA

NEW LIGHT MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH IS NOW ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR A PASTOR. OUR WORSHIP SERVICES ARE EACH SUNDAY OF THE MONTH.

QUALIFICATIONS:

Must be a licensed ordained Missionary Baptist Minister.

- Full of Holy Ghost. Led by the Spirit of God in all matters.
- Full of wisdom, knowledge and understand the office of Pastor and performs it according to the scriptures and the needs of the church.
- Must be Association minded.
- Prefer having experience as a Pastor.
- The husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behavior.
- One that rules his own house, having a good report.
- Knows the doctrine of a Missionary Baptist Church
- Must attend meetings of different auxiliaries in the church to become familiar with the organizations, whenever possible.
- Must visit the sick and shut-in when possible.
- Must attempt to become involved with the various programs that the church participates in outside the home church calendar.

Send resumes and inquiries to:

Deacon Kenneth Bracey
1025 Red Bug Rd.
Hallsboro, North Carolina 28442
910-646-4467

CLASSIFIEDS

affiliated with the Johnston District Missionary Baptist Association and the General Baptist State Convention, interested applicants should provide a resume. Send information to:

Tanya M. Autry, Chairperson
Pastor Search Committee
First Missionary Baptist Church
103 Church Street
Thomasville, NC 27360

EBENEZER BAPTIST CHURCH – Neburgh, NY: currently accepting applications for Senior Pastor with strong Baptist roots. The Committee will provide each candidate with an application packet. Send request to:

Ebenezer Baptist Church
ATTN: Deacon Milton
Buxton/Confidential
PO Box 248

Newburgh, NY 12551-0248

SHADY GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

– East Spencer, NC: currently accepting applications for a Pastor with strong Missionary Baptist roots. Interested applicants should provide the following:

1. A resume
2. at least four references: (2) business (2) personal
3. A copy of religious credentials:

License/Ordination

Send information to:

Shady Grove Baptist Church

ATTN: Clarence A. Jones, Chairperson

PO Box 447

East Spencer, NC 28039

FOSTER MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH – Rocky Mount, NC: The Pulpit Search Committee of the Foster Memorial Missionary Baptist Church located in Rocky Mount, North Carolina, is accepting resume for the position of pastor. Applicants must possess the following qualifications:

- He must possess good moral and ethical conduct, living by Timothy 3:1-1, Titus 1:7-9 and abstain from study activities and inclinations as those cited in Romans 1:26-27.

- He must have a minimum of three (3) years experience as pastor with demonstrated ability in counseling and supervising all work for the church.

- He must live in the proximity of the church.

- He must be born again, filled with the Holy Spirit and called by God to preach God's word.

- He must possess a strong knowledge of the Missionary Baptist Doctrine, Church Policies, and Practices, and be willing to abide by them.

- He must have the skills required to work with all age groups, with special emphasis on the youth.

- He must have the skills required for planning and implementing a vision for spiritual, physical and financial growth of the church. — He must be community oriented, and have strong family values.

- He must have a minimum of a high school diploma preferably a degree or courses in seminary training from an accredited college or university.

- He must be willing to attend Sunday

School, Prayer Meetings, and teach Bible Study.

Please send resume to:

Foster Memorial Missionary Baptist Church, 1911 South Church Street
Post Office Box 6317

Rocky Mount, NC 2802-6317

C/O The Pulpit Committee

Trustee Hiawatha Knight

MOUNT CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH – Shelby, NC: currently accepting applications for a pastor with strong Missionary Baptist roots. The Church is affiliated with the Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Association, and the General Baptist State Convention of N.C. Interested applicants should provide the following:

Resume (including pastor experiences and educational qualifications)

A copy of religious credentials (license/ordination)

At least three personal references (no family)

Send information to:

Pastor Search Committee
Mount Calvary Baptist Church
P.O. Box 3181

Shelby, N.C. 28151-3181

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

To: Subscribers of the Baptist Informer
From: Dr. Archie D. Logan, Jr.
Date: June 1, 2003
Re: Renewing Your Subscription

Greetings and Peace! We hope that you have been enjoying the Baptist Informer with its wonderful articles and updates on the events within the churches of the General Baptist State Convention.

This announcement is to let you know that we are in the process of updating and correcting our database of subscribers to the Baptist Informer. Soon, we will be monitoring subscription expiration dates and ending subscriptions when they expire.

Your individual expiration date is located on your mailing label on every issue of the Baptist Informer. Please make a note of this date and read the following:

For those that have expired: You will continue to receive the Baptist Informer through August 2003. After this time, we will begin the process of closing expired subscriptions. We encourage you to renew your subscription within the next few weeks, so that we can continue your issues uninterrupted. You will not receive another notice.

For those that are current with your subscription: We ask that you check your mailing label and send in your renewal a month prior to your expiration date.

Currently, the renewal rate is \$20.00 per year. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Renée at (919) 821-7466. Your contribution ensures that this needed ministry will continue. We appreciate and thank you for your support!

Please clip the form below to renew your subscription



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For Master Card & Visa: Call Carol at (919) 821-7466.

GBSC Is Available To Work With Churches

By Dr. Archie D. Logan Jr.

Greetings! The General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina is available to work with your church during the time you do not have a Pastor. We will work with the Deacons and other officers to provide guidance as you search for a new pastor to lead your church.

Some of the things we offer:

- We have ordained Baptist ministers available to assist the Deacons in carrying out the Church Ordinances: Lord Supper and Baptism.
- We have ordained clergy who can serve as an "Interim Minister" in your church.
- Some suggested workshops:

- ✓ How To Select An Interim Pastor?
- ✓ How To Call A Pastor?
- ✓ How Much Should We Pay Our Pastor?
- ✓ Church Administration
- ✓ How To Plan A Church Budget
- ✓ Effective Bible Study
- ✓ Evangelism Classes
- ✓ Special Training For Deacons/Trustees
- ✓ Christian Education Planning
- ✓ Church Development

Please call if you are interested in any of these services!

1-800-639-GBSC (4272)

CLASSIFIEDS

HOPPERS CHAPEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH – Shelby, NC: now accepting resumes for the position of pastor. Potential candidates must be a born again Christian with strong Baptist roots. Hoppers Chapel is a member of the Ebenezer Baptist Association. All applicants must possess the following qualifications.

- Must be ordained and licensed
 - Must have at least 1 yr. Pastoral experience
 - Must provide credentials of theological training
 - Must be an effective teacher and counselor
 - Must possess extensive knowledge of Baptist Doctrine
 - Provide a mission statement for the church
 - Live in close proximity to the church
- The applicant must have the ability to plan and implement a growth strategy for both the spiritual and physical growth of the church.

Send all resumes to:

Hoppers Chapel Missionary Baptist Church
C/O Pulpit Committee
415 West Graham St.
Shelby, N.C. 28150

CHURCH STAFF MUSICIANS:
BASIC REQUIREMENTS FOR SER-

VICE:

1. Born-again Christian, Spirit-filled, and divinely gifted in music ministry.
2. Willingness to spiritually align the music ministry with Pastoral vision.
3. Able to play the piano, keyboard and/or organ; able to read music and versatile.
4. Able to prepare choirs for Sunday morning worship services and other services.
5. Able to teach, as, well as direct choirs, with humility and love.
6. Able to rehearse with all choirs on schedule, and available for all Sunday services.
7. Able to accompany Pastor and choirs to other services as required (or ensure qualified substitute is available).
8. Able to select appropriate hymns and songs for worship.

MINISTER OF MUSIC, FULL-TIME.
EBENEZER MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH, Wadesboro, NC

Born-again Christian, Spirit-filled
Ability to read music and versatile
Willingness to align the music ministry with Pastoral vision
Ability to prepare choirs for Sunday morning worship services and other services
Ability to teach, as well as direct choirs,

with humility and love
Ability to accompany Pastor and choirs at various engagements
Other duties as outlined
Please send resume to:
Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church
c/o Dr. W. W. Williams
612 Salisbury Street
Wadesboro, NC 28170

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - RALEIGH, NC is seeking a full time Minister of Music at it's location at 101 South Wilmington Street in Raleigh, NC. First Baptist Church is a historical black congregation organized at the North Carolina State House (now the Capitol) in 1812. This historical congregation seeks an individual who is willing to grow with its Pastor, Dr. Dumas A. Harshaw, Jr. and his flock. This position requires a music and worship leader who is spiritual and

experienced in providing the total awareness of the movement of God's spirit in the assembly of God's people.

Principal Function: The Minister of Music at First Baptist Church is responsible to the Pastor and is supervised by the Pastor for the development and promotion of the entire music program.

Duties and Responsibilities: The duties and responsibilities are as follows:

1. Direct Planning, organizing, conducting, and evaluating of a comprehensive music ministry.
2. Supervise the work of paid or volunteer music staff.
3. Cooperate with the church process to enlist and train leaders for the church music ministry, including choir workers, song leaders, and accompanists for the church worship experiences.
4. Lead in planning and promoting a choir program, direct and coordinate the work of choir directors.

Richard H. Moore
State Treasurer

Dr. Archie Logan, Jr.
Executive Secretary-Treasurer
General Baptist State Convention

Dear Pastor,

The General Baptist State Convention joins Richard H. Moore, State Treasurer, in encouraging your Association and church to identify your unclaimed property. As your State Treasurer and Executive Secretary Treasurer of the General Baptist State Convention, the two of us serve important roles in North Carolina. It is for this reason we want to make you aware of a program that may benefit both your church and its members.

The North Carolina Department of State Treasurer is responsible for administering the "Escheat and Unclaimed Property Program". The purpose of this program is simple; when a company or financial institution is holding money that belongs to a North Carolina resident and that individual cannot be located, the company is required by law to turn the money over to the Department of State Treasurer, where it is held until the rightful owner claims it. This "unclaimed cash" is often the result of forgotten utility deposits, bank accounts, stocks that were purchased, and checks that have not been cashed. Currently, the North Carolina Department of State Treasurer is holding over \$350 million in unclaimed cash that belongs to 1.4 million people and organizations.

It is important that as much of this money as possible gets returned to the rightful owners. In order to do that, we need your help. We hope that you can assist us in getting the word out about this program by letting your church members know it is there and making them aware of how they can check to see if they may be owed money.

The easiest way to find out if your name is on the Unclaimed Property list is to log onto the North Carolina Department of State Treasurer website at www.treasurer.state.nc.us. You then click on the "Unclaimed Property Program" link to get to a page where you can type in your name. We suggest not only checking your name with the proper spelling, but try variations on the spelling of your name, as well. Sometimes the reason money does not get to an individual is because the company sending it has the wrong address or incorrect spelling of the person's name.

It is also important to know that claiming your money through the Department of State Treasurer is completely free. You should be aware that there are services that DO charge a fee to locate any unclaimed funds that may be owed to you. It is not necessary to use these services or to pay a fee to have your money returned. You can claim your money directly from the Department of State Treasurer at no cost.

We believe sharing information regarding the "Unclaimed Property Program" with your church members is a valuable service. Not only will this information help your members to claim any money that they may be owed, but it will also be helpful to your communities as the word travels to relatives, friends and neighbors of your members. We also suggest you check the name of your church to see if money is owed to it. There are thousands of businesses and organizations that have unclaimed cash, and your church may be one of them.

We appreciate your assistance in helping us to make the citizens of North Carolina aware of this program, and look forward to working with you to return as much money as possible to your church members. The General Baptist Foundation is also available to assist you in locating your money at no cost; simply call the Foundation toll free at 1-866-858-7847 or log on to the General Baptist State Convention's website at www.GBSC.org, then click on the [N.C. Department of State Treasurer](http://www.NC.Department.of.State.Treasurer) link to access the "Unclaimed Property Program".

Sincerely,

Richard H. Moore
State Treasurer

Dr. Archie Logan, Jr.
Executive Secretary-Treasurer,
General Baptist State Convention

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CLASSIFIEDS

5. Arrange and provide music for weddings, funerals, special projects, ministries, and other church-related activities upon request.

6. Plan, organize, and promote choir tours, mission trips, camps, festivals, workshops, clinics, and programs for the various choirs.

7. Develop and supervise a music library, and maintain materials, supplies, musical instruments and other equipment.

8. Keep informed on music methods, materials, promotion, and administration through continuing education and attend-

ing music workshops.

9. Prepare an annual music budget and manage the approved budget.

10. Assist the pastor in planning all services of worship, coordinate the music program with the church calendar and emphasize the church vision.

11. Lead in the development of a music academy.

12. Perform other duties as assigned by the pastor.

ST. JAMES BAPTIST CHURCH - Greensboro, NC: Seeks Minister of Music

with the following requirements:

- Born-again Christian, Spirit-filled, divinely gifted in music ministry

- Willingness to spiritually align the music ministry with Pastoral vision

- Ability to play piano, keyboard and/or organ, ability to read music and versatile

- Ability to prepare choirs for Sunday morning worship service and other services

- Ability to teach, as well as direct choirs, with humility and love

- Ability to rehearse with all choirs on schedule, and available for all Sunday services.

- Ability to accompany Pastor and choirs to other services as required (or assure qualified substitute is available)

- Ability to select appropriate hymns and songs for worship

- Has the God given ability to work with diverse groups and personalities.

- Preferably a degree in music

- Must be trustworthy, punctual, and fair in all of service to the congregation

Duties include: Be prepared for worship service and rehearsals; Be on time for worship service and rehearsals; Make sure instruments are in good condition at all times for performances; Have immediate access to "Baptist Hymnals" at all times; Be receptive to spontaneous input of members; Have cordial spirit in presenting

rehearsal strategy; Be flexible in presentation; Be mindful of time; Adjust accordingly; Try to be available for engagements representing St. James outreach ministry; Implement new strategies and methods gradual, so growth can be achieved. All applicants send resume to:

St. James Baptist Church
Attention Rev. King
and Music Committee
536 West Florida Street
Greensboro, NC 27406

MINISTER OF MUSIC WANTED
SPRINGFIELD BAPTIST CHURCH - Stanley, NC:

- A Spirit-filled leader - skilled in the Word

- Child of God

- Faithful and committed to God's program

- The gift to play by ear with or without the accompaniment of other musicians

- Has the ability to read and teach music

- Plays versatile music - which includes hymns, spirituals, contemporary gospel and praise songs

- Available to accompany the pastor and choirs to other churches when and as needed

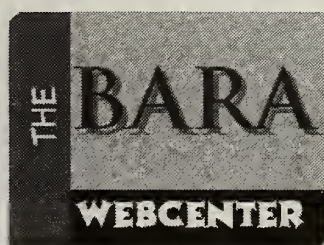
- Available for all rehearsals and Sunday Worship service

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Sanford Ford Lincoln Mercury and Ford of Lillington combined have been serving our communities for over 40 years. Sanford Ford Lincoln Mercury and Ford of Lillington have teamed up to help those in pursuit of higher education at Shaw University. For every vehicle that is purchased by a member of the General Baptist State Convention these two dealerships will donate \$200 towards *Shaw University's scholarship fund*. When you visit these dealerships you will see that our professional and courteous staff will provide you with all the help you need to find the vehicle that you want. Our com-

fortable, non-confrontational environment allows our customers to feel right at home. Our prices are unbeatable set at only \$500.00 over cost. So come on out and see us at Sanford Ford Lincoln Mercury or Ford of Lillington and see why our slogan means so much to us. "We treat you like family." 1 Timothy 5:8 states "If anyone does not provide for his relatives and especially for his immediate family, He has denied that faith and is worse than an unbeliever."

Churches, pastors, officers and members of the GBSC, get your church vans and vehicles today and ask for Mr. Michael Kemp McCoy.

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Please contact: Melissa Fanning - (H) 704-563-3230 or Pastor Theodore Armstrong - Church 704-263-4426

MINISTER OF MUSIC NEEDED - Wake Forest, NC: congregation seeks musician. 1) The duties include working directly with the Pastor in order to assist and cooperate with him in Christian Worship, 2.) Playing during Sunday morning worship service, 3). Rehearsing with various choirs one night per week, 4.) And accompanying the Pastor on engagements to other churches. Please forward a cover letter and resume to:

Evans Grove Missionary Baptist Church
12700 Creedmoor Road
Highway 50
Wake Forest, NC 27587
(919) 870-8874

MINISTER OF MUSIC VACANCY: THE SPRING GREEN MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH - Warrenton, NC: seeks a Minister of Music to provide musical direction and accompaniment for 4 choirs in the church. This person will work closely with the Pastor to provide spiritual leadership in the ministry of Jesus Christ through music, i.e. hymns, spiritual songs, and praise and worship music that glorifies God.

We are accepting resumes from candidates with the appropriate qualifications. (Specific qualifications listed in beginning of staff musician section.)

For additional information please send inquiry or resume to:

Spring Green Missionary Baptist Church
PO Box 924, Warrenton, NC 2589
Rev. Dennis G. Lindsay, Pastor

MUSICIAN NEEDED - Oakboro, NC: Must be a Christian available to serve every Sunday. Prepare Choirs and Praise Team for Sunday morning worship. Rehearse with choirs on scheduled times. Be available to accompany Pastor and choirs to church functions. Direct congregation in congregational hymns. Must be able to play by ear as well as read music. To apply call:

(704) 532-6813 or E-mail to Galilee, NC@aol.com

Galilee Missionary Baptist Church
PO. Box 644, Oakboro, NC 28129

CHURCH MUSICIAN VACANCY: FIRST MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH - Selma, NC: seeks musician for youth choir. Must be a Christian with good character.

Requirements:

- Play the organ and piano
- Able to play sacred and gospel music
- Read music and have the ability to play by ear

Send resume to:

Reverend S. Manfred Isom, Pastor
415 Star Ruby Drive
Knightdale, NC 27545

MINISTER OF MUSIC NEEDED: THE PENN AVENUE MOUNT OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH - Lewiston, NC: seeking a musician for a station church, a Christian, who is responsible, has good character and a good reputation.

Requirements:

- *Plays the organ and piano
- *Able to work with a diverse group of singers
- *Experienced in all sacred music
- *Reads music and is versatile in playing by ear

Send resumes or responses to:

Mount Olive Baptist Church
PO Box 214
Lewiston-Woodville, NC 27849
Attention: William W. Peele, Jr.

MINISTER OF MUSIC WANTED: THE PENN AVENUE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH - Oxford, NC: currently seeking a Minister of Music.

QUALIFICATIONS:

(Specific qualifications listed in beginning of staff musician section.)

- *Will be responsible with the pastor's approval in hiring other musicians if deemed necessary.

Salary: Negotiable

Sunday worship services. Service begins each Sunday at 11 a.m. with the exception of 5th Sunday services which begin at 10 a.m. Please send resume to the above listed address or inquiries may be made by calling one of the above listed numbers.

CHURCH MUSICIAN NEEDED - Warren County, NC: Knowledge of music and the ability to play by ear is appreciated. Presently, morning worship service is held every fourth (4th) Sunday, but we are considering an additional Sunday for services. Must be able to play for youth choir and adult choir. Church is located in Warren County, North Carolina. For further information, please call: (252) 257-0221

CHURCH MUSICIAN: THE CEDAR GROVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH - Gibson, NC: seeking a person to serve as Church Musician. Qualifications: (Specific qualifications listed in beginning of staff musician section.) Salary negotiable. Please send resume to Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Church at this address.

Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Church
14600 Railroad St.
Gibson, NC 28343

CHURCH MUSICIAN: THE FRIENDSHIP MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH - High Point, NC: accepting resumes for a Church Musician. Qualifications: (Specific qualifications listed in beginning of staff musician section.) Salary negotiable.

715 West Willis Ave.
High Point, NC 27260

JEFFRIES CROSS BAPTIST CHURCH - Burlington, NC:

Send cover letter and resume to Jeffries Cross Baptist Church, 2015 Jeffries Cross Rd., Burlington, NC 27217. Phone: 336-226-9626. We are currently seeking a musician who will work directly with the pastor to provide spiritual leadership in the music ministry. Qualifications: 1. A Christian with piano, keyboard, organ ability; read music, play chords, teach harmony, direct choirs, conduct two rehearsals per month with four choirs, accompany pastor on engagements, accommodate traditional and contemporary worship styles.

CHURCH MUSICIAN - Hope Mills, NC: Swans Creek Missionary Baptist Church, North Carolina. Qualifications:

- *A Spirit-filled leader - divinely gifted in music ministry
- *Willingness to align the music ministry with Pastoral vision
- *Able to play piano, keyboard; able to read music and play by ear
- *Able to prepare choirs for morning worship service and other services
- *Able to rehearse with all choirs on a regular basis and available for all Sunday services

*Accompany Pastor and choirs to other services

Please contact or send resume to: 2404 Swans Creek Church Rd., Hope Mills, NC 28348 (910)323-4595

MINISTER OF MUSIC NEEDED - Henderson, NC: congregation seeking a full-time minister of music, who will be responsible for directing, managing, and developing all functions and aspects associated with planning and implementing a comprehensive Church Music Ministry. Must be available for all worship services and practices.

Send resumes or responses to:

St. James MBC, P.O. Box 2205, Henderson, NC 27536. Attention: William H. Clayton, II Senior Pastor.

FOR SALE

CHURCH PEWS FOR SALE. Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church, Barbee Rd., Morrisville, NC has church pews for sale. There are fifteen (15) 8-ft. pews and twenty-seven (27) 6-ft. pews. All inquiries should be directed to Rev. McArthur Pettiford at (336) 570-9111, Trustee Herbert Barbee at (919) 469-3174 / (919) 274-6696 or Trustee Anthony Holland at (919) 474-3186 / (919) 454-6378.

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The General Baptist Foundation offers each affiliated church, bookkeeping services to small (0 to 150 members) and medium size churches (150 to 300 members). This assistance includes the following:

Description	# Of Checks Written	GBSC Member Cost	Non-GBSC Member Cost	
Bank Statement Reconciliation	30 or less each month	\$10.00 per week	\$15.00 per week	General Ledger
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- (1) Included in the cost of the Bank Statement Reconciliation Service.
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COVENANT OF CARE PLAN

"From Bondage To Abundance!"

By Archie D. Logan, Jr., Executive Secretary-Treasurer

The General Baptist Foundation offers every Pastor and his or her local church a "Covenant of Care Plan". This plan can be individually customized to meet every budget. It contains insurance for life, short and long term disability, and long-term care. Take a look at the example below and

then call the Foundation to get your plan started today. contact the Foundation toll-free at 1 (866) 687-4631 or 1-866-OURGOD1 and ask for a representative to explain the details.

Call the GBF, Inc., for more information on this and other programs that will help your congregation and pastor.

Benefit	Monthly Contribution	Annual Contribution	Covenant Partners
Short Term Disability (1)	\$24.76	\$297.12	Unum Provident Insurance
Long Term Disability (2)	\$21.18	\$254.16	Unum Provident Insurance
Life Insurance (3)	\$52.39	\$628.68	Unum Provident Insurance
Dependent Life (4)	\$4.00	\$48.00	Unum Provident Insurance
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Total	\$197.50*	\$2,370.00	

*\$35 monthly administrative fee included in pricing.

- (1) 7-day elimination period for sickness or accident. Benefit Period 12 weeks up to a maximum of 60%/\$1000 weekly
- (2) 90-day elimination period for sickness or accident. Benefit period to age 65 up to a maximum of 60%/\$3000 monthly.
- (3) \$50,000 guaranteed renewable term-life policy. Coverage is reduced to \$32,500 at age 65 and then, \$25,000 at age 70+.
- (4) \$25,000 guaranteed renewable term life policy for spouse. Coverage is reduced to \$16,250 at age 65 and then, \$12,500 at age 70+. ** Children: Live Birth to 6 months = \$1,000, 6 months to 19 years (26-yrs. If full-time student) = \$2,000
- (5) 3-year benefit period, \$2,000 facility/\$1,000 in home care, indemnity policy, \$72,000 maximum, can get extra coverage if needed.

ATTENTION: Pastors, Trustees, and Financial Committees

Mr. Dexter Perry and his staff have finance, loan, annuity and long-range planning programs that help build the stewardship foundations for your church. Also ask them about the

General Baptist Annuity Gift Program we are doing through North Carolina Mutual Insurance Company. One telephone call will make a blessed difference in your church Ministry. ■

If You Begin At Age	Monthly Pretax Deposits	At Age 65 You will Have Deposited	At Age 65 Your 403(b) Balance Will Be
25	\$25.00	\$12,000.00	\$49,787.27
	\$50.00	\$24,000.00	\$99,574.54
	\$100.00	\$48,000.00	\$199,149.07
35	\$25.00	\$9,000.00	\$25,112.88
	\$50.00	\$18,000.00	\$50,225.75
	\$100.00	\$36,000.00	\$100,451.50
	\$200.00	\$72,000.00	\$200,903.01
45	\$50.00	\$12,000.00	\$23,102.04
	\$100.00	\$24,000.00	\$46,204.09
	\$200.00	\$48,000.00	\$92,408.18
	\$300.00	\$72,000.00	\$138,612.27
55	\$50.00	\$6,000.00	\$8,193.97
	\$100.00	\$12,000.00	\$16,387.93
	\$200.00	\$24,000.00	\$32,775.87
	\$300.00	\$36,000.00	\$49,163.80
	\$400.00	\$48,000.00	\$65,551.74

*Assumes an 6% rate of return annually plus reinvestment of all dividends and interest earned.

Taxes will be owed once 403(b) distributions begin, however most individuals assume they will be in a more favorable tax bracket at retirement or able to take advantage of a special tax treatment associated with 403(b) plans called a five-year forward averaging. Professional tax counsel is advisable to determine if special tax treatment for lump sum distributions is available.



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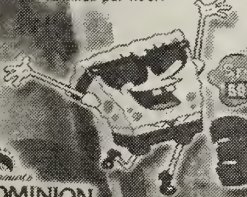
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In ministering to youth, a very important aspect in the development of relationships is to share in moments of fellowship and recreation. In our on-going efforts to provide such opportunities for youth in the General Baptist State Convention of N.C., Inc., we have established a relationship with Paramount's Kings Dominion.

This relationship exemplifies itself in the form of "GBSC of N.C., Inc. Family Day" at Paramount's Kings Dominion. On August 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30, 2003. In addition to the usual thrills and frills of the Park, the GBSC of N.C., Inc. will also be there!

Why not plan your Vacation Bible School activity, your Sunday School picnic, and your church family recreational event for one of these days?

Join us at Paramount's Kings Dominion! There's no better time! We hope to see you there!

For more information call
Paramount's Kings Dominion
Group Sales at 804-876-5561.

faithful to the Lord and work at this church no matter its size, location, prestige, and not run scared every time the Adversary rears his demonic head says "Boo". As my pastor says often ... "something is wrong when you only want to go into a church that someone else has already built up, rather than build where you are and be faithful until God says that's enough. We run too fast, too often, and end up building nothing that glorifies God because we do not want to suffer for the name of Christ."

Churches as well must be sure of their calling. We must remember that we are the Ekklesia, the called out. We have been called by Him who has brought us out of darkness into His marvelous light. (I Peter 2:9) We are the salt of the earth, the light of the world, and the city on a hill that can not be hid. (St. Matthew 5:13-14) We have overcome the Adversary by the blood of the Lamb. (Revelation 12:11) We are the church of the Living God, the pillar and the ground of truth. (I Timothy 3:15) We are more than conquerors through Him that loved us. (Romans 8:37) We too must walk worthy of the vocation wherewith Christ has called us. If He called us to be the church, then be the church!

We are not a political institution, a social club, dating service, a courtroom, Showtime at the Apollo, a fight club or

a fashion show. To serve this present age, we must be the church that Christ has called us to be. We are not merely a movement, nor masquerading as a museum, but we are a ministry of our Master, Jesus Christ! That is our priority. Everything else must take a back seat. We will never be effective as a church trying to wear any other garments than those that have been prepared for us by our Lord. To dress in any other wardrobe and guise would be to be hypocritical to what He called the church to be. We are not to be

**To serve this present age,
we must be the church
that Christ has called
us to be.**

impressed with ourselves, but rather be pressed into the service of the Heavenly King.

When we all remember our calling, both pulpit and pew, clergy and churches we will all be on our way to effective ministry that glorifies God. This is the goal of the GBSC to aid you in being more effective in your ministry to the glory of God. If we as a convention can ever be of any assistance to you or your church, please do not hesitate to contact us. You may reach us personally at (919) 688-3093 or stayblessed@consultant.com. The Apostle Paul says exuberantly to empower the people of God as he concludes off his letter to the Thessalonian church "Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it". (I Thessalonians 5:24) We are witnesses that God will do just what He says.



The Prayer Line

Rev. David K. Miles M.Div.
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BAPTIST INFORMER

A CONTEMPORARY RESPONSE TO PHARAOH'S QUESTION

In Genesis 41:38, Pharaoh posed a very thought provoking question to his servants. The question Pharaoh asked his servant was in response to Joseph's interpretation of a dream that greatly disturbed the Pharaoh. Pharaoh summoned Joseph after the wise men and magicians in all of Egypt failed to interpret the Pharaoh's dream. Subsequent to the interpretation, Pharaoh asked his servants, "Can we find such a one as this is, a man in whom the Spirit of God is?" The reader, of this story, is able to sense the relief; joy and happiness Pharaoh felt when he posed the question to his servants. What Joseph did was extraordinary. He was able to accomplish what wise men and magicians failed to accomplish.

Pharaoh's question to his servants intrigued me from the perspective of what it might imply. It seems to imply that Pharaoh saw Joseph as a person who was unique. It could be concluded, based upon the nature of the question, that Pharaoh recognized Joseph as one in whom the Spirit of God dwelled.

Exploring the wonders of God's grace

In these times when going to church is the 'in' thing to do, I wonder if a similar question is being asked of the church. I wonder if those, desiring a spiritual transformation in their lives, are also perplexed by the difficulty of perhaps finding a church that they can visibly recognize as the place where the Spirit of God dwells. Perhaps the most important benefit of a worship service is an awareness of the presence of the Spirit of God. Believe me, people are searching for something unique in the church that cannot be found in the world, specifically, the heartfelt presence of the Spirit of God.

It can be easily overlooked that the church does some of the same kind of activities that other organizations do. However, there is a difference. The difference is in the manner (spirit, love and kindness) in which the church gets things done. When people come to church do they experience a feeling that cannot be experienced in other places? Do you remember the song, "There is a sweet, sweet spirit in this place"? Whoever wrote the song had a profound experience in a church that could not be duplicated anywhere else. The songwriter concluded

the "sweet, sweet Spirit was the presence of the Lord".

I firmly believe people are looking for a church where the Spirit of the Lord dwells. It is not just a church people are looking for, but specifically a church where God's Spirit dwells. That is what makes the church such a very special and unique place.

We pray that churches in the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina are places where the Spirit of God is visibly recognized and felt. The place where God's Spirit dwells cannot be seen in the physical edifice. It can only be seen through our attitude and posture in worship. The Apostle Paul wrote in I Corinthians 3:16, "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?"

If the question asked by Pharaoh was asked of us, "Can we find such a one as this is, a man in whom the Spirit of God is?" It is my hope and my desire that churches throughout our convention will be able to respond hesitance "YES!!!"

- Editor

BAPTIST INFORMER

603 S. Wilmington Street
Raleigh, NC 27601
USPS 042-680

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BAPTIST INFORMER

Volume 126, No. 9

Publication of the General Baptist State Convention of N.C., Inc.
Voice of 500,000 North Carolina Baptists

September 2003

By Dr. Archie D. Logan, Jr.
Executive Secretary-Treasurer

136th Annual Session To Convene in Charlotte, NC October 26 - 30, 2003

The 136th Annual Session of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina will convene in

Charlotte, NC, October 26-30, 2003. The Ebenezer Baptist Church, Reverend Dr. Leonzo Lynch, Pastor will serve as host. The session theme, "Serving The Present Age" Ephesians 4 (KJV). GBSC



Dr. Archie Logan, Jr.

President, Dr. Charles T. Bullock and his administration join me in inviting you to this session. Dr. Bullock was the first President elected in this century and millennium to serve the Convention. It is important for all churches to pre-register if you have questions please call Baptist Headquarters, 800/639-GBSC. Make your plans now!

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS SUNDAY EVENING, OCT. 26, 2003

6:00 PM Pre-Convention Musical Program
Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church
2020 West Sugar Creek Road, Charlotte, N C
Followed by a reception in church fellowship hall

MONDAY MORNING, OCT. 27, 2003 Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church

8:30 AM.....REGISTRATION
9:00-10:00 AM.....Fellowship Hour
CLASSES: 10:30-12:00
Certificate Program in Discipleship, Church History, Leadership & Baptist Polity, Church Computer Technology Others to be announced

MONDAY AFTERNOON, OCT. 27, 2003 Reverend Ricky Banks, Presiding

Special Workshops and Ministry Opportunities
1:30 PM.....REGISTRATION
2:00: Certificate Program in Discipleship, Church History, Leadership & Baptist Polity, Church Computer Technology Others to be announced
4:30-7:00 PM...Shaw Divinity Curriculum

MONDAY EVENING, OCT. 27, 2003

7:00 PM
Reverend Dr. Leonzo Lynch, Presiding
6:45-7:15 PM,
Praise & Worship.....Devotional Message
7:15-8:15 PM,
Welcome and Local Program
Local Moderators & Associations

8:30-9:30 PM.....Minister's Council
Dr. Donaldson Jones, Presiding

THE LORD'S SUPPER

All Pastors are asked to wear Communion Robes and sit together to serve the Lord's Supper.

Late Night Worship -Evangelism Worship
9:30 PM

Dr. Robert E. McGowens, Presiding

TUESDAY MORNING, OCT. 28, 2003

Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church
Dr. Nilous Avery, II, Presiding
8:30 AM.....REGISTRATION
8:30-9:00 AM.....Fellowship Hour
9:00-9:30 AM.....Praise & Worship
Devotional Message
CLASSES 9:00-11:00

Certificate Program in Discipleship, Church History, Leadership & Baptist Polity, Church Computer Technology, Others to be announced

11:00-11:30 AM...Health Human Services Overview

11:30-12:30 PM.....Sermon
Remarks/Announcements

12:30-2:00.....Lunch

TUESDAY AFTERNOON, OCT. 28, 2003 OFFICIAL OPENING OF CONVENTION Dr. Charles T. Bullock, Presiding

2:00-2:30 PM
136th Convention Call to Order
Dr. Charles T. Bullock, President

Greetings
2:30-3:30 PM...136th Year Annual Sermon
3:30-4:30.....PM Minister's Council
Dr. Donaldson Jones, Presiding
3:30-5:30 PM...Shaw Divinity Curriculum

THE PRESIDENT'S BANQUET
University Hilton.....6:00-8:00 PM
Dr. Charles T. Bullock, Presiding
Sermon: Dr. Julius Scruggs
Vice President At-Large National Baptist Convention USA, Inc.

9:00 PM.....Late Night Worship
Evangelism Worship
Dr. Robert E. McGowens, Presiding

WED. MORNING, OCT. 29, 2003

Dr. Howard Parker, Presiding
8:00-9:00 AM...Prison Ministry Breakfast
Rev Michael Smith
8:30 AM.....REGISTRATION
9:00 AM.....Praise & Worship
9:30-11:00 AM.....CLASSES
Certificate Program in Discipleship, Church History, Leadership & Baptist Polity, Church Computer Technology, Others to be announced
11:00 AM....Recognition of Special Guest
12:00 Noon.....Past President's Sermon

WED. AFTERNOON, OCT. 29, 2003

Dr. Howard Parker, Presiding
1:30 PM.....REGISTRATION
2:00-2:30 PM.....Worship & Praise
Devotional Message

See SESSION, Page 2

Homegoing Service for Rev. Dr. Leo Williams, Jr.

REV. DR. LEO WILLIAMS JR., 72, of Raleigh, NC went to be with the Lord on Friday, August 1, 2003 at Wake Medical Center.

A native of Jones Co., Dr. Williams moved to Raleigh to attend Shaw University where he obtained undergraduate and graduate degrees after serving active duty in the United States Air Force during the Korean War. He retired as Director of Christian Education for the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina after 25 years of dedicated service. Dr. Williams has led several churches and conducted minister's training seminars across the state of North Carolina for over 40 years. He was currently serving as Assistant Pastor of the Progressive Missionary Baptist Church, Raleigh, NC. Dr. Williams impacted countless lives, churches, and loved ones during his time here. He will be greatly missed by all.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday, August 9, 12 noon, at Northwest A Division Tabernacle, 1124 Ten Mile Fork Rd., Trenton, NC 28585. Burial will follow in the

Williams Family Cemetery. Visitation for the family will be Friday, August 8, 2003 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the funeral home.

Survivors: two daughters, Constance Abigail Williams and India Irene Williams of Raleigh; former wife, Willie Mae Jordan of Raleigh; two sisters, Kittie Sneed of Brooklyn, NY and India Basemore of Laurelton, NY; four brothers, Moses Williams of Kinston, Lehman Williams of Capitol Heights, MD, Linster Williams of Brooklyn, NY and Rev. James Williams of Trenton.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorial contributions be made to the family c/o Constance and India Williams, 6501 Paces Arbor Circle #621, Raleigh, NC 27609.

Services entrusted to Oscar's Mortuary, Inc., 1700 Oscar Dr., New Bern, NC 28562, (252), 633-1156.

A memorial service given by the General Baptist State Convention of N.C. will be held at a later date in Raleigh. Please contact Dr. Archie Logan at the Baptist Headquarters, (919) 821-7466 for further details.



Dec. 18, 1930 - Aug. 1, 2003

Our 136th Year • 1867 - 2003

By Rev. Dr. Terry Thomas, Editor

Making the Very Best Of A Rare Opportunity

Text: Genesis 41:14-16, 39-41

Subject: Making the Very Best Of A Rare Opportunity

There are times in life in which we will be met by opportunities that can tremendously impact the brightness of our future. These kinds of opportunities, I must say, do not come our way every day, like the rising of the sun. Opportunities of this sort, normally, pass our way only once.

Admittedly, there are some things in life, if we miss those things today, can be obtained the next time around. But opportunities that can make our future bright, healthy and well are almost non-reduplicating. They do not come our way every day.

Although some might think differently, life, itself, is a rare opportunity. Our days on earth, David said, are like a shadow. The saying, "There is always time," sounds very encouraging, but it is not necessarily true as it relates to life. In life, we only have one opportunity to live it. If we fail to live life fully the first time around, we are not afforded the privilege of a second chance to live it again. Therefore, we should revere every moment of life with the best that we have to give. I cherish the words of an unknown author who wrote, **"I shall pass through this world but once. Therefore any good, any kindness that I can show to any human being let me do it now. Let me not defer it nor neglect it. For I shall never pass this way again."**

But what do we do with opportunities that we encounter in life that are rare?

Life is rare, but within life, we encounter rare opportunities. For example, I want our children to know that going to school is a rare opportunity. Beside our faith, I do not know of anything more tangible that greatly impacts the brightness of your future than school. Oh it might not seem this way, but what our children experience from kindergarten through twelfth grade is a rare opportunity. Today in some countries only a selected group of children are given the privilege of going to school. The privilege of going to school has not always been readily available to African Americans in this country. Even when the privilege was granted, the resources given to educate African Americans were inadequate. Now since going to school is such a rare opportunity, and the opportunity must not be mishandled, let us learn a lesson from a young man named Joseph on how we should respond to a rare opportunity.

The context from which Joseph teaches this lesson is in a prison in Egypt. Through a series of events, Joseph was thrown in prison after being accused by his overseer's wife, Potiaphar, of attempted rape. This same Joseph who is a foreigner, after his stay in prison, became second in command in all of Egypt. Pharaoh set Joseph over all the land of Egypt, even his household. Nothing could be done in Egypt without Joseph's permission.

But how was Joseph, a prisoner and a foreigner, able to go from the dark, damp and dingy dungeon to riding in the first chariot behind Pharaoh? A non-Egyptian, who was a prisoner, became next in command to Pharaoh, vested in fine linen. A young man, if you allow me to say, from

the project, from the hood, from the other side of the track became second in command to Pharaoh. But what did Joseph do that propelled him from the dark, damp, dingy dungeon to the second highest ranking position in the land of Egypt?

Joseph's promotion from the dungeon to the second highest ranking position in the land of Egypt, as revealed in the text, was the result of Joseph making the very best of a rare opportunity. It was rare for a prisoner to be brought into the presence of a Pharaoh. Pharaoh had a dream that greatly disturbed him. None of the magicians and wise men of Egypt could interpret his dream. Pharaoh heard about Joseph's ability to interpret dreams. Pharaoh sent for Joseph. Joseph interpreted Pharaoh's dream, and the rest is history. So youth, I hope that you are asking how do I make the very best of a rare opportunity?

I. You make the best of rare opportunity by being a dreamer

A man named Carl Sandburg said nothing happens unless there is first a dream. I have yet to meet a prominent individual whose life was not shaped by their dream. Carl Brashear, the first African American deep-sea diver and the first amputee to attain the rank of Master chief petty officer and master diver, the highest ranking office in the Navy, said that it was his dream to become a deep-sea diver. What Carl Brashear accomplished was no accident because he was a dreamer.

Before going into the ministry, I worked with a prison ministry called Woke Fellowship that basically ministered to inmates in a prison known as Wake Advancement. I have not forgotten a conversation there with an inmate. During the course of our conversation, I asked the young man what did he plan to do when he got out of prison. He said to me, "I do not have any plans. I have

nothing to get out of prison for." The young man was not thrilled with the possibility of getting out of prison because he had lost all of his dreams and aspirations. Subsequently, he wasn't even looking for an opportunity to get out of prison.

If you are not a dreamer, you will not look for opportunities. A rare opportunity will not appeal to you if you are not a dreamer. Young people, do you have dreams? Joseph was a dreamer. He had aspirations for life. He sought for opportunities. Joseph's opportunity to interpret Pharaoh's dream came after Joseph offered to interpret the dream of a butler, a fellow inmate. Upon interpreting the butler's dream, Joseph said to the butler, **"think on me when it shall be well with thee, and show kindness, I pray thee unto me, and make mention of me unto Pharaoh, and bring me out of this place."** Joseph would not have sought for opportunities if he was not a dreamer.

Young people, it is important that you dream. My day to day activities are influenced by my dreams. Howard Thurman says that man becomes the living embodiment of what he dreams. In other words, what I hope to be tomorrow I am working on it today. So if you dream of becoming a lawyer, doctor, engineer, preacher, teacher, scientist or whatever, you have to start working toward your dream today. Having dreams help you to make the very best out of school. Your dreams enable you to see school as a rare opportunity to help your dreams come true. To make the very best of a rare opportunity, I must be a dreamer. Langston Hugh was right when he wrote, **"Hold fast to dreams. For if dreams die, Life is a broken winged butterfly."**

PREACHING, Cont'd Next Page

SESSION, Cont'd From Front Page

2:30 PM.....Greetings
2:45 PM.....Business Session/Reports
Executive Secretary GBSC

Dr. Archie D. Logan
Executive Secretary WBH & FMC
Dr. Priscilla A. Brodie
GBSC 2003-2004 Budget
Other Business

4:30-6:00 PM...Shaw Divinity Curriculum

WED. EVENING, OCT. 29, 2003

Dr. Nilous Avery II, Presiding
7:00-7:30 PM....Praise & Worship Service
Devotional Message

7:30 PM
136th Annual Session Theme Address
136th Convention Sermon
Late Night Worship, Evangelism Worship
9:30 PM

THURS. MORNING, OCT. 30, 2003

Vice President At-Large
Dr. John H. Grant, Presiding
8:00-9:00.....AM Fellowship Hour

9:00-9:30 AM.....Praise & Worship
Devotional Message

9:30-9:45 AM.....Martin Luther King Jr.,
Commission

9:45-10:45.....AM Political Action
President's Hour.....11:00 AM

Special Music: Martin Street Missionary
Baptist Choir

Below is the hotel and motel information.
All the sessions are important. Pray for
the success of the "work."

Registration form included in this issue.

Hotel Information:

Hilton Charlotte University Place,
8629 JM Keynes Dr., Charlotte, NC
28262, 704-547-7444, Fax 704-548-1081,
Singles/Doubles \$75.00 + tax. Deadline:
Sept. 26, 2003.

Courtyard Marriott University Court,
333 W. Harris Blvd., Charlotte, NC 28262,
704-549-4888, Fax 704-942-2999, Singles/
Doubles \$59.00 + tax. Deadline: Oct. 6,
2003. ■

THE BAPTIST INFORMER

Publication of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc.
Voice of 500,000 Baptists

(USPS 042-680)

Dr. Archie D. Logan Jr., Executive Editor

Dr. Priscilla A. Brodie, Executive Editor

Dr. Terry Thomas, Editor

Ms. Carol J. Smith, Managing Editor

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THEME: "By the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor
of righteousness..." (II Corinthians 6:7)

PREACHING, Cont'd From Page 2

II You must Possess a Self-Love

Jesus taught to love thy neighbor as thy-self. There is the tendency to place a lot emphasis on loving others. However, according to Jesus teachings, we are to love others the way we love ourselves, which indicates that we cannot love others until we first love ourselves. There is a big difference between being arrogant, boastful, and conceited versus loving yourself and being proud and having an appreciation for whom you are. The Bible says that we were fearfully and wonderfully made. Gary Collins wrote that, "self-love is not erotic or ecstatic self-adoration. Self-love means to see ourselves as worthwhile creatures valued and loved

by God, gifted members of the body of Christ, bearers of the Divine nature." Self-love begins with a proper understanding of self. I am somebody because I am valued and loved by God. I am gifted. Moreover, you are a bearer of the nature of God. God has the ability to create. You are not God, but the image and likeness of God is bestowed upon you. Therefore, you too can be creative.

Now self-love is manifested in good self-worth. Self-hate is manifested in low self-worth. Good self-worth is one of the most important possessions a person can have. When one has low self-worth one can only do what others think he or she can do. How you feel about yourself greatly impacts what you think you can do. Again referring to Carl

Brashear, he shares in his book, *Men of Honor*, the challenges he faced being an African American trying to pursue his dream. Brashear wrote, "Some people in the Navy may have used my race against me, but I never used my race against myself. I have always viewed the color of my skin as a source of pride, strength, and inspiration." Brashear did not allow the opinions of others shape his view of himself. What's important is not what others think of me, but what I think of myself. A rare opportunity can be staring you right in your face, but it is useless to you, if you do not feel that you can take advantage of it.

Do you avoid certain classes in school because you don't think you can handle them? Question, what makes you think that you cannot do it? Who told you math was hard? Who told you chemistry was hard? Who told you that you could not be an honor student? Who told you that you could not be the valedictorian of your class? Are you allowing others to define you or are you striving to be what God says that you can be? God said that you were fearfully and wonderfully made, and you are marvelous. Joseph, regardless of how his brothers ridiculed him about his dreams, continued to dream because he possessed a self-love. And the Bible tells us that all that Joseph did in the land of Egypt, God made it to prosper. I ascertain that Joseph volunteered to interpret the butler's dream because he believed in himself. To take advantage of a rare opportunity, you must possess a self-love.

III. You must affirm yourself

We must be careful that our sense of self-worth does not come or is not legitimized by someone else. When Joseph was called from the dungeon, the Bible says that Joseph shaved himself and changed his raiment. There is no indication that Joseph was instructed to do that. But Joseph simply affirmed himself. Joseph knew that he had self-worth, and he proved that he had self-worth by affirming himself.

Half the battle in upward mobility is in the way you present yourself. How you are affirming yourself? Wearing your pants in such a way that brings negative attention to yourself does not affirm your self-worth. You can't take advantage of a rare opportunity if you don't know how to affirm yourself.

Booker T. Washington, who founded Tuskegee University in 1881, in his autobiography tells how he was able to receive admission to Hampton University. When Dr. Washington went to Hampton Institute he did not have any money. For class assignment, Dr. Washington had to report to the head teacher. To his regret, Dr. Washington's first appearance to the head teacher was not a favorable one. The head teacher, however, asked Dr. Washington to sweep the recitation-room.

Booker T. Washington, said and I quote,

It occurred to me at once that this was my chance. Therefore, I swept the recitation-room three times. Then I got a dusting-cloth and I dusted it four times. All the wood-work around the walls, every bench, table, and desk, I went over four times with my dusting-cloth. Besides, every piece of furniture had been moved and every closet and corner in the room had been thoroughly cleaned. I had the feeling that in a large measure my future depended upon the impression I made upon the teacher in the cleaning of that room.

Dr. Washington said that after the head teacher inspected the room, she said to him, "I guess you will do to enter this institution." Dr. Washington did not have any money, but he affirmed himself by his action. When you are presented with a rare opportunity you must affirm yourself. You must demonstrate that you are worthy of the opportunity. If you want to attend Duke, Harvard, Yale, Howard University, Hampton University, Tuskegee University, Spellman, or Morehouse one day, you must affirm yourself. You must demonstrate that you are worthy of the opportunity.

My beautiful, gifted, young, sons and daughters, descendants of African Kings and Queens, you must make the very best of a rare opportunity. And remember, we make the very best of a rare opportunity by dreaming, by possessing a self-love and by affirming ourselves.

Something that Joseph said to Pharaoh about God that sticks out in my mind that I want to mention in closing. Joseph said to Pharaoh, "It is not in me: God shall give Pharaoh an answer of peace." We must understand that rare opportunities are blessings from God. It was God who gave Joseph the ability to interpret Pharaoh's dream. Carl Barshear says that when people ask him how he made it, he tells them that he made it by having faith in God. There is something about having faith in God that gives me the courage to take advantage of a rare opportunity. And since it is God who gives us life, let us take advantage of every minute that we have to live. Someone wrote,

I only got a minute, only sixty seconds in it. Forced upon me. Can't refuse it. Didn't seek it. Didn't choose it. But it is up to me to use it. I must suffer if I lose it. Give an account if I abuse it. Only a tiny minute, but eternity is in it.

Only a minute, but eternity is in it. A rare opportunity may be presented just for a minute, but eternity is in it. To come to Jesus only takes a minute. It is a rare opportunity, but eternity is in it. We only have one opportunity to live this life, but through Jesus there is a rare opportunity to have eternal life. It only takes a minute to come to Jesus, however, eternity is all wrapped up in it.

REGISTRATION AND REPRESENTATION FORM

136th Annual Session

GENERAL BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION

OCTOBER 26 - 30, 2003

DR. CHARLES T. BULLOCK, PRESIDENT • DR. ARCHIE D. LOGAN, JR., EXECUTIVE SECRETARY TREASURER

EBENEZER BAPTIST CHURCH • 2020 W. SUGAR CREEK RD.
CHARLOTTE, NC • Rev. Dr. Leonzo Lynch, Pastor • 704-598-2219

CHURCH _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIPCODE _____

PASTOR _____

ASSOCIATION _____

PHONE NUMBER CHURCH () _____ PHONE NUMBER PASTOR () _____

YOUR NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIPCODE _____

YOUR PHONE () _____

PERSONAL REGISTRATION \$10.00 PER PERSON

NUMBER OF MESSENGERS: _____ @ \$10.00 EACH AMOUNT \$ _____

CHURCH REPRESENTATION: \$500.00 AMOUNT \$ _____
GBSC ANNUAL SESSION

PLEASE SEND YOUR REGISTRATION/REPRESENTATION FORM TO:
BAPTIST HEADQUARTERS, ANNUAL SESSION
603 S. WILMINGTON ST., RALEIGH, NC 27601-2338
800-639-GBSC (4272) • 919/821-7466 • MC - VISA

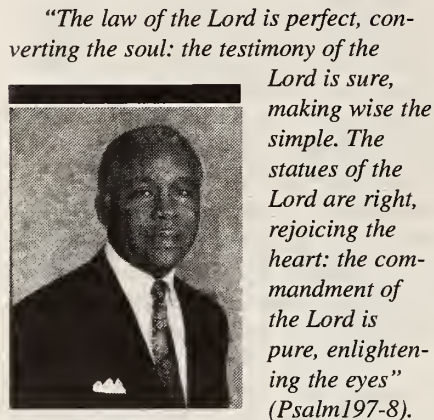
HEADQUARTER HOTELS:

HILTON CHARLOTTE UNIVERSITY PLACE
8629 JM Keynes Dr. • Charlotte, NC 28262
704-547-7444 • Fax 704-548-1081
Singles/Doubles \$75.00 + tax
DEADLINE: SEPT. 26, 2003

COURTYARD MARRIOTT UNIVERSITY COURT
333 West Harris Blvd. • Charlotte, NC 28262
704-549-4888 • Fax 704-942-2999
Singles/Doubles \$59.00 + tax
DEADLINE: OCT. 6, 2003

By Charles T. Bullock,
President

The Book of Life



Dr. Charles
Bullock

"The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes" (Psalm 197-8).

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished into all good works" (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

The following paragraph is taken from an article published in *Theology Today*:

April 1999 entitled "EAT THIS BOOK – The Holy Community at Table with the Holy Scripture;" by Eugene H. Peterson.

"The Christian scriptures are the primary text of Christian spirituality. Christian spirituality is, in its entirety, rooted in and shaped by the scriptural text. We do not form our personal spiritual lives from a random assemblage of favorite texts in combination with individual circumstances; we are formed by the Holy Spirit following the text of the Holy Scriptures. God does not put us in charge of forming our personal spiritualities. We grow in accordance with the revealed Word implanted in us by the Spirit."

It is my belief that we only grow in accordance with the word implanted in us by the spirit, if we accept the Bible as the authority of our faith. The Bible is an inspired, authoritative book that contains

the truth about God and man; it also discloses the will of God for all mankind. God's word reveals the reality of God who speaks to us from a dimension beyond the reach of our investigation and often breaks through to us in ways that we cannot understand. That's why I believe that it is important for us to know that the Bible was inspired by the Holy Spirit, and only

the Holy Spirit can cause the teachings of the Bible to grip our hearts and lives and change and transform us. Therefore, as Christians, we know the Bible is more than just a story telling us about God and His relationship with His people, but it is the basic text from which our lives are formed. The word of God must be the practical guide to every man who seeks to live an upright and honest life. It helps the Christian by faith to understand the mis-

The word of God must be the practical guide to every man who seeks to live an upright and honest life.

sion and ministry of Jesus Christ and the New Testament church. The word is profitable for "correction." It helps to rectify wrong and restore right living. It will reprove us when we are wrong and set us straight again in doctrine and practice.

As servants of God, serving the Baptist churches of our state and servants of humanity, let us continue to make the Bible, God's Word, the guide for our lives, both for what we believe and how we live. The word of God is the practical guide to every individual who seeks to live an upright and honest life; it is full of instructions in righteousness. It will lead us and strengthen us; "To serve the present age, our calling to fulfill, O may it all our powers engage, to do our Master's will."

The Executive Committee has been elected and appointed "to serve the present age" and is call to meet Tuesday September 30, at the Mount Carmel Missionary Baptist Church in Winston Salem, Dr. A. T. Griffey, Pastor. A schedule of meetings for the remainder of 2003 and for 2004 will again appear in the next issue.

MOUNT ZION FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

320 W. Thomas Street • Rocky Mount, NC 27801

This is an appeal to any members, former members, friends and/or acquaintances of the Mt. Zion First Baptist Church, Rocky Mount, NC.

We, the Archives and History Auxiliary, would like to obtain copies of photos of all former pastors of Mt. Zion in an effort to honor these men of God with a Pastoral Gallery. We would like to dedicate the Gallery during our church's anniversary in November.

Anyone who has photos of former pastors and is willing to share them, please contact the church office (252-442-1627) weekdays between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. We need photos of the following pastors: *1st pastor* - Cain Gibbs; *2nd* - Cain Barnes; *3rd* - George Norwood; *4th* - George Smith; *5th* - Simon Hicks; *6th* - Daniel Martin; *9th* - Nathaniel Marriot; *10th* - R.A. Morrissey; and *14th* - Rev. Hunter

Anyone who would like to send a copy of a photograph, please do so by mailing it to the above address, to the attention of Mrs. Nancy Gary Joyner, President of the Archives and History Auxiliary.

Thank You and God Bless!

UPCOMING SESSIONS

◆ October 26-30, 2003

GBSC Annual Session

Ebenezer Baptist Church, 2020 W. Sugar Creek Rd., Charlotte, NC
Host Pastor: Leonzo Lynch, 704-598-2219

Martin Street Baptist Church

Serving God and Men, Through Jesus Christ, Our Lord and Savior Since 1869

1001 East Martin Street • Raleigh, NC 27601

• Dr. Charles T. Bullock, Pastor •

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

Worship Service 11:00 a.m.

Friday Noon Hour Prayer

Each Friday in the church sanctuary



Dr. Charles T. Bullock

"...Could you not wait with me one hour,?" Matt 26:40 (NKJV)

◆ The Evangelism Team ministers to the homeless and serves breakfast at the Wilmington Street Shelter on the 2nd and 4th Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

◆ Radio Ministry

Our worship services are broadcast on station WCLY 1550 AM, Raleigh, on Wednesday from 12:30 - 1:00 p.m. and on Sundays from 4:30 - 5:00 p.m.

General Board Covenant

By Dr. John H. Grant
Vice President At Large

Below is a draft Covenant (Code of Conduct) under review to be signed by every member/director of the General Board. Listed are items by which each

board member should abide. Items may be amended or added, as the Board deems necessary. As Chairman, I am encouraging each Board member and potential member to ponder this Covenant and be prepared to make



Dr. John H. Grant

a commitment during our upcoming retreat or by our next Board meeting – September 30, 2003, at 11:15 a.m. at Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, Winston-Salem with Dr. A. Thomas Griffey, III as host pastor.

1. I shall accept a position only when I feel that my time and energy enable me to do the job well.
2. I shall attend meetings regularly and when this is impossible, strive to catch up on what I have missed.
3. I shall seek to understand my job assignment, interpret it to others, and work to complete it in the allotted time.
4. I shall participate in the deliberations in a positive, effective manner, where allowable in accordance with the Conflict of Interest Policy. I shall seek to accept and/or respect other's suggestions openly.
5. I shall identify areas of potential conflict and avoid any areas of impropriety, including making full disclosure of any potential conflict of interest, and adhering to the Conflict of Interest Policy by abstaining and physically removing myself from any and all discussions where such a conflict may arise.
6. I shall share the discussion time with others and stick to the topic.
7. I shall assume the responsibility for an assignment when I feel I have the ability.
8. I shall listen and try to understand and utilize the ideas of others, some of which may be better than mine.
9. I shall help in making decisions and support those made by the group even if it is not what I think best.
10. I shall become familiar with the aims, methods, goals and accomplishments of the General Baptist State Convention of N.C., Incorporated since I as a director of the board should act as a public relations person in promoting the Convention's goals, purposes and mission.
11. I shall have a sense of direction and perspective that enables me to see the present in terms of the future.

12. I shall provide support to the General Baptist State Convention of N.C., Incorporated through money and in-kind donations from myself, my church, my association, and others, representative of my self-established goal of commitment to the organization, as determined at the beginning of the fiscal year. My personal gift amount is \$100.00.

13. I shall understand that confidentiality with respect to all aspects of the organization's actions, the actions of the General Board and the actions of the staff of the organization, are necessary components for efficient and productive operation of the goals and objectives of the organization; and further, that I shall

refrain from any actions which may lead to the dissemination of such internal information, including but not limited to, seeking advice from a trusted colleague, gossip and the misplacement of Board and organizational material.

14. I accept that only one individual speaks on behalf of the organization, as designated by the General Board, and that I should defer speaking to the press, government or any individual, to that so designated individual.

15. I accept that once the General Board has made a decision as a collective body, I shall conduct myself as part of that collective body, and shall not disseminate, represent or present another opinion or action that was not determined by the General Board to be an action or opinion

of the General Baptist State Convention of N.C., Inc.

16. I shall bring humor to the operation of the Convention, in order to rejuvenate and assist my fellow directors of the Board in focusing on their duties in a relaxed and faithful manner.

17. I understand that failure to comply with this Covenant shall be just cause for my dismissal from the General Board by my fellow directors.

Name (Please Print)
Date
Signature
Title

By Dr. Howard W. Parker, Jr.
First Vice President



Dr. Howard W. Parker, Jr.

to become their next Pastor. He began his duties as Pastor on Sunday, July 6, 2003.

The First Baptist Church on Fourth and Caswell Streets in Smithfield has called the Reverend Willie H. Battle of Columbus, Ohio as its Pastor. The church extended an official call to Rev. Battle in May 2003 after several months of dialogue

Welcome To a New Pastor



Pastor Battle served as Pastor of the Grace Baptist Church of Columbus, Ohio and before his Pastorate, served as Assistant Pastor of the Trinity Baptist Church in Columbus, Ohio under the Pastorate of Dr. E. A. Parham. The Rev. Victor Davis, who also Pastored First Baptist in Smithfield, is the current Pastor of Trinity Baptist in Columbus, Ohio.

Rev. Battle entered the ministry in 1985 and was ordained by the Pastor's Conference of Columbus, Ohio. He is a graduate of Ohio State University, in Columbus, Howard University in Washington, DC, and Cornell University in New York.

The 137-year old congregation will

officially install Pastor Battle October 8th through 12th, 2003, with the Reverend Victor Davis, Pastor of Trinity Baptist Church of Columbus, Ohio delivering the installation closing message on Sunday, October 12, 2003.

On behalf of Dr. Charles T. Bullock, President of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, and Dr. Archie D. Logan, Jr., Executive Secretary, GBSC and the entire General Baptist Family, we extend a warm welcome to the Reverend Willie H. Battle and we rejoice in celebration with the First Baptist Church Family of Smithfield.

Second Vice-President

By Rev. Nilous M. Avery, II - M. Div.
2nd Vice-President

"Do you love me ... ? FEED MY SHEEP ... FEED MY LAMBS ... FEED MY SHEEP!" (from John 21:15-17). In the last article, this challenge from Jesus was included to remind us of our responsibility and accountability to be spiritual practitioners of the divine gospel mandate. This article, a continuation of the previous one, seeks to highlight the efforts of the Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Convention to uphold the divine mandate.

The Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Convention is serving as an exemplary testimony to this form of practical ministry. During its 106th Annual Session (August 2003), the Lott Carey Convention reached out to homeless communities in Louisville, Kentucky through two events.

First, the Lott Carey family invited approximately 250 homeless persons from the community to its opening banquet as a gesture that affirmed the humanity of the homeless and confirmed the

ministry of Christian generosity through food and fellowship. This event endeavored to serve as a reminder of our Christian duty to inform, inspire, and invest in the lives of many overlooked brothers and sisters in our communities across the United States and the world.

Second, the Lott Carey family has become a partner in the "Party-in-the-Park" event that has been coordinated annually by the Homeless and Migrant Education Department of the Jefferson County Public Schools since 1994. The economic downturn and budget tightening has all but eliminated funding for this event. It has been held to provide homeless children in Louisville/Jefferson County with clothing, school supplies, tutoring support, and an inspirational picnic. Lott Carey is still seeking ongoing corporate sponsorships for this event.

These two events highlighted the Lott Carey Convention's objective of "building a better world through Christian missions"



Rev. Nilous M. Avery, II

at home and abroad. The opportunity exists, also, for us to respond in a mighty way to Jesus' marching orders. Feed the ministry that exists in your own communities by using these endeavors as examples for ministry through your local churches and associations. Become a partner with Lott Carey in this reach of faith through your prayers and financial support.

You may also contact me for more information on how this ministry can be a blessing to you and how you can be a blessing to it: (704) 637-0954 {office}; (704) 637-1137 {fax}; E-mail – averyrevkin@aol.com

The Lott Carey family, the General Baptist State Convention, your Association, local church, and community await your efforts to "build a better world through Christian missions". "The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you. My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen." (1 Corinthians 16:23-24, NKJV.)

"O Worship The King"

By Executive Secretary-Treasurer Brodie

O wor-ship the King, all glorious a-
bove, And grate-ful-ly sing His pow'r and



Dr. Priscilla Brodie

His love; Our Shield and De-fend-er, the An-cient of Days, Pa-vil-ioned in splen-dor and gird-ed with praise.

O tell of His might, O sing of His grace, whose robe is the light, whose can-o-

py space; His char-iots of wrath the deep thun-der-clouds form, And dark is His path on the wings of the storm.

Thy boun-ti-ful care what tongue can re-cite? It breathes in the air, it shines in the light; it streams from the hills, it descends to the plain, And sweet-ly dis-tills in the dew and the rain.

Frail chil-dren of dust, and fee-ble as frail, In Thee do we trust, nor find Thee to fail; Thy mer-cies how ten-der! how firm to the end! Our Mak-er, De-fend-er, Re-deem-er and Friend.

-- Robert Grant

Yes, we (believers, disciples, and wit-nesses of Jesus Christ, as the household of faith) should "praise Him from the rising of the sun until the going down of the same, for He is worthy to be praised." How worthy is He to be worshipped! We are to praise Him, worship God for Who He is and for What He does. In worship we celebrate the Godliness of God, His uniqueness, His other/transcendence, His sovereignty and yet His manifested love

for us. For He is "Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend."

President McDonald has recommend-ed the use of the term Family in her tenure's theme and its explanations. For this missionary and fiscal year, we shall explore the theme, "Serving The Present Age" "Transforming the Family Through Christian Worship." Our present scripture references are Exodus 20:1-7, Joshua 24:14-15, and Luke 4:6-8.

As we explore this theme, we shall see that Christian worship is a necessity for the firm foundation/stability of an



Dr. Julius McDonald

immediate fam-ily and church family. Worshipping God together at home and at church will enhance our experience with the real and liv-ing God. Our family worship may include singing, pray-ing, reading, and studying

God's Word, sharing, and living in praise and thanks in honor of our God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit).

To God Be The Glory For The Great Things He Has Done, Is Doing And Will Do For His Family!

REMINDERS

Families (individuals, churches, union, district, auxiliary, associations) from across the state are invited to attend our annual **Family Missions Conference** at Elizabeth Baptist Church, Monroe, on Saturday, September 27th, 2003, beginning at 9:00 A.M. (Please see directions at end of article.)

The Woman's Convention will be **receiv-ing applications for the positions: Administrative Assistant,**

Bookkeeper/Accountant, and Secretary. (Please see ads in this page.)

The Woman's Convention thanks God and all persons and missionary organizations for contributions sent during the immedi-ate past fiscal year. **The new fiscal year begins this month and ends in August 2004. The proposed budget this year will be near \$811,055, which will be dis-tributed among the objectives. Checks and money orders should be made payable and sent to the Woman's Baptist State Convention or Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention, P. O. Box 1818, Raleigh, NC 27602.**

As we focus more on worship, let us remember that sacrificial giving is a part of worship.

"Praise ye the Lord: for it is good to sing praises unto our God; for it is pleas-ant; and praise is comely." - Psalm 147:1.

Directions to Elizabeth Baptist Church Coming from Rocky Mount: Take US-

64 West; Continue on US-64 West/US-64 East; Continue of New Bern Avenue; Take the I-440 North ramp towards Outer Beltline/Wake Forest; Merge on I-440 West; Continue on I-440 West; Continue on I-440 South; Continue on US-1 South; Continue on US-1 South/US-64 West; Continue on US-1 BYP South/US-1 South/US 15-501 South; Continue on US-1 South/US-1 South; Continue on North Walnut Street; Continue on South Walnut Street; Continue on US-1 South/US-220 South; Continue US-1 South; Continue on US-1 South/US-1 South; Turn right on US-74 West; Continue on US-52/US-74 West; Continue on US-74 West; Continue on US-74 West/US-74 East; Continue East Marshville Blvd.; Continue on West Marshville; Continue on US-74 West/US-74 East; Continue on Monroe Street; Continue on US-74 West/US-74 East; Continue on East US-74; Continue on East Roosevelt Blvd.; Turn left on East Franklin Street; Turn left on Hough Street; Turn right on East Hudson Street. ■

POSITION OPEN: SECRETARY

The Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention, Auxiliary to GBSC, is accepting applications for a Secretary. Applicants should meet the follow-ing qualifications:

- Have completed high school and have had several business courses beyond high school
- Have knowledge of business English
- Have efficient knowledge of computer operations, especially word processing and spreadsheets
- Have good typing speed and accuracy
- Have the ability to relate to people
- Have team spirit

The salary is negotiable; good benefits.

For further information and application, please write to:

The Executive Secretary-Treasurer

Woman's Baptist Home & Foreign Missionary Convention of North Carolina
Auxiliary to GBSC • P. O. Box 1818 • Raleigh, NC 27602

Telephone (919) 833-4823 * Fax (919) 833-7599

Email: WBHFMC@WBH-FMC.Org

POSITION OPEN: ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

The Woman's Baptist Home & Foreign Missionary Convention, Auxiliary to GBSC, is accepting applications for an Administrative Assistant. Applicants should meet the following requirements:

- Have an Associate or Bachelors degree, preferably in Business Management (some courses in Christian Education) with some years of experience
- Have communicative and organizational skills
- Be able to maintain lists, schedule(s)
- Be able to work with minimal supervision
- Have proficiency in business English
- Have knowledge of preparing and reporting state and federal taxes preparation
- Have proficient computer skills
- Have a pleasant personality and telephone skills
- Have team spirit

Salary is negotiable, good benefits.

For further information and application, please write to:

Executive Secretary-Treasurer

Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention of North Carolina,
Auxiliary to GBSC, • P. O. Box 1818 • Raleigh, NC 27602

Telephone (919) 833-4323 * Fax (919) 833-7599

Email: WBHFMC@WBH-FMC.Org

POSITION OPEN:

BOOKKEEPER/ACCOUNTANT

The Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention, Auxiliary to GBSC, is accepting applications for a Bookkeeper/Accountant. Applicants should meet the following qualifications:

- Have an Associate or Bachelors degree in bookkeeping and/or accounting
- Have efficient knowledge of computer operations in terms of spreadsheets and general ledgers and any other bookkeeping/Accounting procedures
- Have adequate typing skills
- Have ability to relate to people
- Have team spirit

The salary is negotiable; good benefits.

For further information and application, please write to:

The Executive Secretary-Treasurer

Woman's Baptist Home & Foreign Missionary Convention of North Carolina
Auxiliary to GBSC • P. O. Box 1818 • Raleigh, NC 27602

Telephone (919) 833-4823 * Fax (919) 833-7599

Email: WBHFMC@WBH-FMC.Org

130th Congress of Education President's Annual Address and Report

Submitted by Dianne Newell
President Congress of Christian Education

President, Dr. Charles T. Bullock;
Vice Presidents, Dr. John H. Grant, Dr.
Howard Parker, Dr. Nilous Avery, II, Dr.



Diane
Newell

Leonzo D. Lynch, and Reverend Ricky Banks; Executive Secretary-Treasurer, Dr. Archie D. Logan, Jr. and the General Baptist Headquarters Staff; Congress of Christian Education Officers, Vice Presidents, Reverend Jamale Johnson, Ms. Lula Gainey, Mrs. Robbie Williams, Mrs. Delores Redmon; Deans, Mrs. Janifer S. Campell and Mr. Frank Byrd; Oratorical Directors, Ms. Alberta H. Moore and Mrs. Constance Finch; Music Directors, Mr. David Eggleston and Mrs. Ira B. Wolfe; Secretaries, Mrs. Trumilla McDowell and Reverend Carolyn Brown; Past Congress Presidents, Dr. Jasper Reed, Mrs. Lodies Gloston, Mrs. Elizabeth Young and Mrs. Hazel McLean, I greet you in the "Queen City of Charlotte", in the name of the reigning King, my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I give thanks and honor to the Almighty for this privilege. Our thanks are extended to Reverend Ralph McCormick, Host Pastor and the Second Calvary Baptist Church family for hosting this Third Annual Trinity Convention of the Laymen's League, Ushers' Convention and the Congress of Christian Education. My sincere appreciation to President John Gladden, Laymen's League and President Forest Eaves, Ushers' Convention and the Officers of those ministries for the collaborative manner in which we have been able to serve together, as co-laborers with God to bring this Trinity into fruition.

I owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to my Pastor, mentor and friend, Dr. John D. Fuller, Sr. and my Lewis Chapel Church Family. Thank you for being my support base, and the fountain of my inspiration. Dr. Fuller, I serve today as President of the Congress of Christian Education, Auxiliary to the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Incorporated because of the opportunities afforded me at Lewis Chapel Baptist Church to develop my spiritual gifts, to be nurtured and grow in the ministries of Leadership and Christian Education. To God Be The Glory!

My deepest appreciation to the

Congress of Christian Education Officers, it has been a great opportunity this past year to work with such devoted persons as you. I am grateful to you for your service, stewardship, loyalty and dedication to goals of the Congress and objectives of our Convention.

Moderators, Associations, Pastors, and the General Baptist Family, your prayers for, participation in, and presence at the teaching and training opportunities provided by the Congress have enriched the quality of the programs of your State Congress. The many new friends I have made this year have been a true inspiration for me as I have traveled across our State Convention.

We came to this 2002-2006 Administration of the Congress of Christian Education committed to a vision with five goals:

Goal 1: Promoting the Curriculum Certification Program to be developed in collaboration with Shaw Divinity School. - II Timothy 2:15 KJV

Curriculum Certification Program Vision: Publish a Training Manual for Training Trainers of Discipleship. This vision is one that is built on the vision of Dr. Jasper Reed as President of the Congress of Christian Education, Auxiliary to the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina during his administration from 1998-2002. Dr. Reed stated in the January 14, 2000 meeting of the Christian Education Committee of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc., "the General Baptist State Convention, Congress of Christian Education must become curriculum driven, developing curriculum that deals with real life problems." A pilot to launch a Certificate Certification Program was initiated in collaboration with Dr. Jasper Reed and Dr. William Thurston, and Moderators Dr. Larry Leake and Zion Association members, in November 2002.

Here we are today, 2003, paralleling the Deuteronomy Biblical story of Moses and Joshua. Moses was given a vision by God for the people of Israel, a promise. Moses' ministry was called of God to prepare the chosen people of God, the Israelites, to fulfill the covenant and become inhabitants of the Promised Land. Moses passed on the vision, the mission upon Joshua to complete the journey of inhabiting the Promised Land. Like

Joshua, the 2002-2006 Administration of the Congress of Christian Education has been called to complete the journey of

developing a curriculum driven Christian Education Program. To Serve The Present Age: Equipping Saints For The Work Of The Ministry - Ephesians 4:11-12.

In an effort to bring this manual

into existence, a Publication Committee has been established of General Baptist State Convention members who are willing to contribute their work for a collaborative publication.

Goal 2: Enhancing the General Baptist State Convention presence by training and equipping Christian Education workers through the One-Day Sessions, V.B.S. Clinics, Mid-Year Sessions, Annual Sessions and Association Meetings.

- Ephesians 4:12 KJV

All the accomplishments of this year are due to the cooperation of the Moderators, Associations and Pastors of the General Baptist Family who have hosted our many training events.

February - One-Day Session, Winston-Salem, NC. Host: Reverend Patrick Cheston, Pastor; Zion Missionary Baptist Church, Reidsville, North Carolina

March - V.B.S. Clinic, Laurel Hill, North Carolina, Host: Congress Officers

April - V.B.S. Clinic, Elizabeth City State University. Host: Reverend Ricky Banks, Pastor, St. Stephens Missionary Baptist Church, Elizabeth City, North Carolina, Roanoke Missionary Baptist Association

V.B.S. Clinic, Charlotte, North Carolina Host: Reverend Norman E. Kerry, Pastor Chappell Memorial Baptist Church Moderator, Mecklenburg General Association

June - Youth Oratorical Conference, Raleigh, North Carolina. Host: Dr. Paul Anderson, Moderator, Shaw University, Raleigh, North Carolina, Wake Association

July - 130th Annual Convention/Trinity Session. Host: Reverend Ralph McCormick, Pastor, Second Calvary Baptist Church, Charlotte, North Carolina

As officers of the Congress collectively and individually, we have been called upon by churches and associations to preach, teach, train and bring greetings

at numerous occasions.

Goal 3: Reaching Youth for Christ by continuing and expanding our Youth Oratorical Conference.

- Proverbs 22:6 KJV

This year the fourth year our Youth Oratorical Conference has been held on the college campus of one of our historically Black colleges, Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina. I commend the Youth Department leaders, Ms. Lula Gainey, Supervisor, Ms. Alberta Moore, Oratorical Director, Mrs. Constance Finch, Assistant Oratorical Director and Mrs. Delores Redmon, 4th Vice President for their outstanding service in carrying out the duties and responsibilities of good servant leadership.

Congratulations to all the Oratorical participants for taking the challenge to serve the Lord through your gifts of speaking, and letting the world see your "Little Light Shine". Moderators, Pastors, Parents, Chaperones and Coaches, continue to create and support opportunities for your young people to learn, share and grow in the Christian faith.

Goal 4: Working to improve communication between the Congress, Associations and local churches through the Baptist Informer, newsletters and mail-outs. Ephesians 4:3-6, KJV

We have used the vehicle of the Baptist Informer to get information to you regarding the activities and events of the Congress. Additionally, in each training and teaching session, we have sponsored our 2003 calendar, and updated information has been made available to the participants, as well as the numerous mail-outs, faxes, e-mails, and answered telephone messages.

Every General Baptist member should have his/her own subscription to the Baptist Informer. "Knowledge is Power!" Special thanks to Dr. Johnny Freeman, Pastor of United Institutional Baptist Church in Greensboro, North Carolina for agreeing to Chair the Publication/Editorial Review Subcommittee in an effort to get us to know the authors of General Baptist, and to support their work.

Goal 5: Developing a Plan to meet our financial obligation to the J. J. Johnson Assembly Building Project.

- Romans 14:12

J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly Day \$130.00 Special Offering

In an effort to reduce the indebtedness to the renovation project of the J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly, Friday, July

REPORT, Cont'd Next Page

Submitted By Portia Brandon, M.Div.
Christian Education Coordinator

Parental and Church involvement has been shown to be one of the most impor-



Portia
Brandon

tant factors in student performance. As a mother of two sons, I was a supporter and active in my children's educational process.

Types of Parental Involvement

Parental involvement has two independent components: parents as supporters and parents as active partners. Focusing on one of these components alone is not a sufficient approach to parent involvement. Parents can be active, yet not supportive of the education process. They also can be supportive but not active at the school. Of course, the ideal is the parent who is both supportive and active; but this often is difficult when both parents work outside the home, or when there is only one parent in the home.

Whether in a supportive and/or an active role, parental involvement can mean very different things, depending on one's perspective. Teachers may want parental involvement in the form of helping children with homework. Parents may see parental involvement as making major decisions in the school. The truth is that parental involvement can and should take many forms. Parental involvement is reading to preschool children. It is getting children ready for school every morning. It is volunteering at the school. It is serving on collaborative decision making committees, and it is lobbying legislatures to advocate for children. The list of examples could be very long.

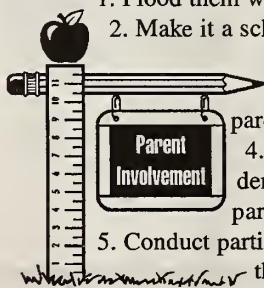
Increasing Parental Involvement "A Ministry for the Church"

Factors Limiting Parental Involvement

- One parent households or two parent households where both parents work – Parents have a hard time becoming involved when they are busy during and after school hours;
- high poverty areas – parents in high poverty areas often lack or feel they lack the skills to become more involved;
- poor communication between the school and parents;
- poor planning for involving volunteers – many schools lack plans for involving people who do volunteer and as a result often make volunteers feel unwelcome or unnecessary;
- and busing/transfer programs – when students do not attend nearby neighborhood schools it makes it hard for parents to become more involved.

Increasing Parental Involvement

1. Flood them with information;
2. Make it a school-wide effort;
3. Recognize students and parents;
4. Involve students in recruiting parents;
5. Conduct participatory projects that include the entire family;
6. Recruit church and community members;
7. Make the classrooms and the school a comfortable place;
8. Use the telephone as an instrument of good news;
9. Find out why parents are not involved;
10. Have a variety of event scheduling plans;
11. Operate a parent hotline;
12. Use community members to endorse the program.



Proven Parent Involvement Strategies:

1. Involve parents in mutual goal setting, contracting and evaluating;
2. Involve parents in assessment of school policies, practices and rituals;
3. Open a parent lounge, center or resource room;
4. Develop public information displays, public service messages and work site seminars;
5. Develop a parent handbook of guidelines and tips.

Additional Ideas:

1. Help parents learn to read so they can read with their children;
2. Send frequent letters to tell parents what subjects teachers plan to cover, what skills they hope to teach, and how parents can help at home;
3. Send home portfolios of student work and require parent signatures;
4. Make home visits;
5. Use workshops to educate parents about child development stages, parenting skills or ways to help children with homework;
6. Send home positive notes;
7. Use gathering places, like churches and community centers, to spread school information;
8. Provide free transportation to parent meetings;
9. Vary meeting times to accommodate parent schedules;
10. Offer child care and student activities during parent meetings;
11. Hold activity nights so parents can see the ways children learn and copy those activities at home;
12. Notify parents immediately when their children are absent;
13. After school activities;
14. Train parents to help in classrooms;
15. Involve parents in curriculum decisions;

16. And having convenient meeting times and providing competent volunteers to help children with school work during meetings

Specific to Low Income Areas

- have regular meetings to discuss homework, behavior and curriculum;
- conduct special parenting skills seminars;
- help parents reinforce reading and math skills in children.

Tips to Help Keep Youth Safe When They Go Back-To-School

1. Walk to and from school in groups.
2. Never accept a ride without first getting permission from parents.
3. Never take shortcuts. Always stick to routes selected by parents, and stay on main roads.
4. Leave home with money for telephone calls, or a calling card. Remind them that 911 is a FREE call, even from a pay phone.
5. Never advertise if they are "latch key kids", and wear their house key on a string underneath clothing.
6. Have "home alone" plans for emergencies, and for phone and door answering.
7. Have landmarks on school routes, like "on my way home, if I am past the church on Front Street and there's a problem, I'm closer to home and should go there. If I haven't reached the church, I'm closer to school and should go back."
8. Be aware of "safe havens" along walking routes (police stations, fire stations, retail shops), which represent the "right" strangers from which to seek help in immediate danger.
9. Report ALL suspicious behavior and "new adult friends" to parents.
10. Never leave school with anyone without checking with school officials.



REPORT, Cont'd from page 7

19, 2003 has been noted as the J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly Day during this year's 130th Annual Session of the Congress of Christian Education. During the 130th Anniversary Year of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc., in the founding City of Goldsboro, North Carolina, each auxiliary was asked to pledge **\$130,000.00** to the development of our Assembly.

Today, we still need to rise to that challenge as a collective body. Our 2002-2006 Congress of Christian Education Theme Song is "Count on Me". How appropriate at such a time as this to borrow from the words of the song writer, "The Lord had need of workers to till His field today ...". Will your response

be, "O blessed Savior, count on me". If we are to "Serve the Present Age", as a faith-based organization, we must fulfill the vision given to our leaders by God for building and developing our J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly. It is our duty to lift up Christ who allows us through His will to build, building to serve the present age in our ministries. The J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly must serve as a site for holistic ministry that extends beyond the membership of the General Baptist State Convention into the community. Churches are asked to bring or send a **special offering of \$130.00** to this year's session. Churches making this offering will be recognized during this session. **Be Counted in the Number!**

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City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Youth Laymen

Submitted by Deacon John Gladden

The following speech was delivered

by Bennett David, the North Carolina State youth LL President. He is fourteen years old and attends Watts Chapel Baptist Church in Raleigh, North Carolina. He has been involved with the Youth Laymen's League since he



Deacon John Gladden

was six years old.

Good Afternoon, I give honor to God, who is the Head of My Life, and to all my Christian Brothers and Sisters. The youth Laymen have become more active throughout churches across North Carolina. We are involved in the work of the church because of our faith in God and our involvement in Christian programs and activities. These programs are offered at the local, district association, and state levels. Some of them include; Vacation Bible School, Sunday Youth Day services, Sunday school, Laymen's League Annual Retreat, as well as various missionary outreach and recreational activities.

We are experiencing positive Christian role modeling from godly men who are living for the Lord. Our interaction with these Christian role models in the home, church, and the community allows us to witness discipleship. As people of God we should be willing to reach out and help another person get up from whatever is hindering them.

First, "How can we help each other to get up?"

The first thing we need to help our brothers get up from is a defeated attitude. The attitude of defeat makes a person believe that he can't accomplish anything, that he cannot live up to his potential, that he is not God's own property, that he is not somebody special in God's sight. We need to help these people to become familiar with Philippians 4:16 which reads, "I can do all things through Christ who strengtheneth me." For with Christ we can do all things, but without him, we can do nothing. Without Him, We are just like a ship on the angry sea, going nowhere, tossed and driven, like a ship without a sail.

Therefore, we need to help lift our brother's level of thinking to believe that they are Somebody, and that they can't do

anything with their own strength, but, with God's help, they can do anything!

Secondly, we need to help lift our brothers educationally. We need to encourage our brothers and sisters to take advantage of every opportunity to obtain their education. For a mind is a terrible thing to waste, and....Too many people are wasting their minds and lives away with drugs, with alcohol, with partying, hanging out, and doing too many other things that are just not positive. Even some things that are not considered harmful can become harmful, if not controlled. Such as too much television, too much telephone, and too much of anything that keeps us from gaining our education, building our potential in life, and achieving our goals in life. Hosea 4:6 reads, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge, because thou has rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee.

To help each other get up, we need to be led in the right direction. As it is written in Psalm 94:12, "Blessed is the man whom thou chastenest, O Lord, and teachest him out of thy law." This scripture is stating that the lord will straighten out a man and lead him into the right direction. Usually, when a person is helping another person to get up, they are sent by God.

Thirdly, why should we help each other get up? We need to help our fellow brothers and sisters to get up because as Christians, we need to be helping spread the word of God.

Ps. 51:12-13 reads, "Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit. Then will I teach transgressors thy ways, and sinners shall be converted unto thee." If the word is taught to one person, he will experience the goodness of God, and will tell the good news to someone else. As a person is experiencing the goodness of God, they will feel the urge to witness to another person. And that's how more and more people come to know who Jesus is. And when we spread the word of God, we are doing God's will.

So let's all do God's will by helping each other to get up. Let's hold each other's arms up. Let's show love to our fellowman. Let's introduce our fellowman to Christ. Let's set good Christian examples for our fellowman so that they will come running saying, what must I do to be saved too! And not only will we be lifting up each other. We'll also be lifting up the name of Jesus who said "If I be lifted up, I'll draw Alllllll Men Unto Me". So let's continue to lift up Each other, Lift up our fellowman, and Lift up the Name of Jesus.

May God continue to bless you all. Please continue to pray for the NC State Laymen's League and Youth Laymen's Leagues as we reach the masses in the present age. Thank You.

All roads lead to Memphis!

Greetings fellow Laymen across the great state of North Carolina, North Carolina State Laymen are looking forward, with great anticipation, to the upcoming Laymen's trip to Memphis Tennessee on September 19-21, 2003.

We will be attending the Walter Cade Regional Laymen's Workshop in Memphis, TN.

The workshop was held in Atlanta Georgia in 2001, Spartanburg SC in 2002, is being held in Memphis TN. this year of 2003, will be held in Alabama in 2004, Florida in 2005, and will come to North Carolina in 2006. We are getting involved and invite you to join us as we move beyond the borders of our state to join in fellowship with our Christian brothers and sisters who are also endeavoring to "Serve The Present Age" through dedicated Christian service and evangelism towards others.

The NC Laymen will leave on a Bus from Raleigh early the morning of September 19th (Friday), traveling Hwy 40 West through Asheville, and will arrive in Memphis that evening where Laymen from each southeastern state in the U.S. will be present in large numbers. We will return to Raleigh on September 21st (Sunday).

The Regional Workshop's Youth night is held on Friday night and features youth from the various states represented. Many excellent Laymen speakers from each state in the Southeastern U. S.,

including Deacon Dallas Foster from NC, will be featured throughout the weekend. A street ministry is normally conducted on Saturday afternoon, and a wonderful banquet is held on Saturday night. Sunday morning service is held prior to us heading back to NC on Sunday.

As Local and/or District Association Laymen's League President, you are being called upon to:

1. Encourage your Laymen and their families to also attend and enjoy the Regional Laymen's Workshop in Memphis. We are leasing a 55 passenger bus and Deacon Gladden tells me that we have about 45 persons who have submitted registrations so far, with others who have promised to send in their paperwork

2. Encourage your Local and/or Association Laymen's Leagues to make a contribution towards the transportation costs. Most local and association Laymen Leagues have given an average of \$400-\$500 dollars each towards the bus transportation. We encourage you to also participate.

You can reach me via email address: theodore.david@pgnmail.com or Daytime Phone: 919-508-5468, Home Phone: 919-846-5278, Mailing Address: PO Box 166, Raleigh, NC 27602

May God continue to Bless You.

Sincerely,

Brother Theodore David

2nd VP - GBSC State Laymen League ■

General Baptist State Convention of NC State Laymen's League Budget 09/01/2003 - 8/31/04

Income			
Church And Assoc	\$	25,181.00	
Registrations	\$	2,500.00	
Public Offering	\$	3,000.00	
Laymen and Boys Retreat	\$	4,000.00	
Annual Banquet	\$	3,000.00	
Mid Ann Ban	\$	3,000.00	
Personal	\$	2,500.00	
Total Income	\$	43,181.00	
Expenses			
Annual Session Banquet	\$	3,000.00	
Mid Annual Banquet	\$	2,000.00	
Regional Walter Cade Workshop Expenses	\$	5,000.00	
Quarterly Study Commission	\$	3,000.00	
Youth Programs	\$	400.00	
Printing Materials	\$	1,000.00	
Postage and Mailing	\$	1,500.00	
Video Supplies	\$	200.00	
Mini-Skills Exhibit	\$	700.00	
Supplies	\$	300.00	
Scouting Camporee	\$	600.00	
Misc	\$	600.00	
Auxiliary Support Expenses (Travel, Lodging, etc.)	\$	7,000.00	
Contributions to Lott Carey	\$	1,000.00	
Contribution to State Missions	\$	7,006.00	
Laymen and Boys Retreat	\$	4,400.00	
- Food prep	\$	2,000.00	
- T- Shirts	\$	1,500.00	
- Trophies and Prizes	\$	200.00	
- Certificates, etc.	\$	200.00	
- Lifeguard	\$	250.00	
- Workshops, etc.	\$	250.00	
Honorariums	\$	5,475.00	
LL President	\$	600.00	
1st Vice President	\$	300.00	
2nd Vice President	\$	250.00	
3rd Vice President	\$	200.00	
4th Vice President	\$	200.00	
1st Admin Assist To President	\$	300.00	
Secretary	\$	200.00	
Assist Secretary/Treasurer	\$	200.00	
Musician	\$	200.00	
Youth LL President	\$	150.00	
Youth LL Vice President	\$	50.00	
Youth LL Secretary	\$	50.00	
Host Pastors	\$	500.00	
Host Churches	\$	750.00	
Speakers	\$	350.00	
Sermons	\$	575.00	
Workshops	\$	200.00	
Instructor	\$	400.00	
Total Expenses	\$	43,181.00	
Carried Forward	\$	-	

By Dr. Jasper P. Reed, Historian, GBSC

Senior Pastor Series

Our senior pastor for September 2003 is a native son. Born in Willard, NC, he was educated in some of the most historical and finest institutions in the



Dr. Jasper Reed

state. His high school days were spent at the historical C. F. Pope High School in Burgaw. An institution related to the Middle District Missionary Baptist Association and named for a former Shaw

University staff member. The impact of the C. F. Pope experience can be noted as we follow our senior pastor from Burgaw to Raleigh and Shaw University. There he earned a Bachelor of Arts in Social Studies from Shaw University and a Doctor of Humane Letters Degree and Shaw Divinity School with a Doctor of Divinity Degree. Quite a record for a young man whose parents were farmers and being one of seven children.

Our senior pastor is Rev. Dr. Aaron J.

Johnson, the eminent pastor of the Mount Sinai Missionary Baptist Church in Fayetteville, NC, where he spent 43 of his 53 years in the ministry. He is married to Mrs. Mattie M. Johnson, a retired school teacher and noted history maker herself. They are the proud parents of two children – daughter Dezette C. Johnson, an assistant professor of social work at Johnson C. Smith University, and a son – Aaron Jamale Johnson, the assistant pastor of the Mt. Sinai Baptist Church and 1st Vice President of the GBSC Congress of Christian Education.

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me: because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; He hath sent me to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and the opening of the prisons to them that are bound." (Isaiah 61:1.) As we read this verse we find out that all thee Persons of the Trinity are mentioned and involved in the call to Rev. Dr. Johnson to service. The Spirit, the Sovereign Lord and the Messiah known as the anointed one. Fifty-three years ago Rev. Dr.

Johnson was licensed to preach by the Willard Chapel Baptist Church in Willard, NC. He was ordained by Kenansville Eastern Missionary Baptist Association. He served two pastorates before coming to the Mount Sinai Church. He pastored Roberson Chapel Baptist Church and Oak Hill Baptist Church in Wagram, NC. Under his dynamic pastorate and devoted leadership, Mt. Sinai has built a new sanctuary, a fellowship hall and class-

rooms, a family life center, an education/administration building, 100 apartments for low-income families, and a day care center. Dr. Johnson is a firm believer in equipping his members for Christian Ministry. He has established a spiritually strong Sunday school, a family life ministry, and a strong outreach and evangelistic ministry. He understands that all these require preparation, so the church awards scholarships to members attending institutions of higher education.

Dr. Johnson has served the General Baptist State Association for his entire ministerial life. He has served in many capacities. Among his many contribu-

tions is the work he did during Dr. Turner's and Dr. C. Jones' administrations. His stamp is placed on GBSC in many committees and auxiliaries. He has served equally well the Union Baptist Association. He served as chair of their ministerial board and helped to write their first constitution.

His energies spilled over into politics. In carrying out the mandates in Isaiah 61:1, he served with distinction Cumberland County, the City of Fayetteville as its Mayor Pro Tem, and the State of North Carolina where he was the first minority to be appointed to be Secretary of the Department of Corrections. If we re-read the verse again, we can see the movement of the Lord's Hand in the life of this dynamic senior pastor as he answers the call to serve. This appointment to the Secretariat opened many doors for Dr. Johnson to find ways to bind up the broken hearted, proclaim liberty to the captives who were and are the victims of the curse of sin, and further enabled him to open the prisons to assist those who were physically bound by the system and demonized by its processes.

Thank God for this pastor who is still active and helping to educate our people about the prison system and its devastation.

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me: because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek;

NEW BERN EASTERN MISSIONARY ♦ BAPTIST ASSOCIATION ♦

Moderator F.W. Fisher
Vice Moderator E.L. Hyman
2nd Vice Moderator Melvin Walker

The moderators, members and friends of the N.B.E.M.B. Association will celebrate the dedication of our headquarters building on Sept. 19-21, 2003. The theme for the dedication is "Reflections, Recognition, Rejoicing."

Sept. 19, the day of "Reflections", is the beginning of the pre-dedication services. Events of the day will feature past moderators, pastors, churches, members and a "feast under the tents". The day begins at 10:00 a.m.

Sept. 20 is the day of "Recognition," which begins at 10:00 a.m. We will be recognizing all officers of our association. There will be a dedication dinner from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. in the dining area. Attire for the dinner is formal/semi-formal, and the cost is \$5 per person (deadline for dinner reservations is Aug. 20).

Sept. 21, the day of "Rejoicing", will begin with Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. The morning worship service will begin at 11:00 a.m. which will be followed by lunch. The closing dedication service will be at 3:00 p.m. * We will also have Holy Communion during this day of "Rejoicing".

We will also have sermons preached each day.

All services will be held at the headquarters building. For more information, please contact Moderator Fisher at 202-745-5780.

Theme:

"The Challenge is the Same: Reach The Masses"

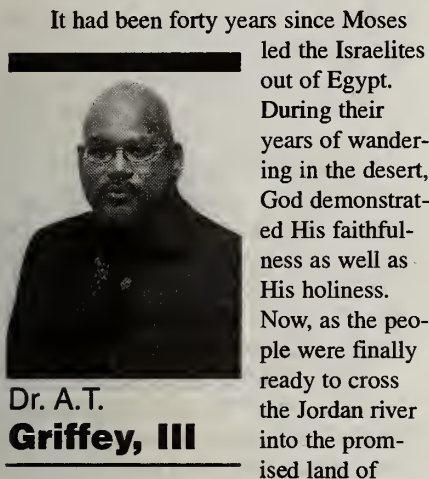
John 12:32



New Bern Eastern Missionary Baptist Association
Headquarters Building
Highway 306 North • Grantsboro, North Carolina

Peace Be Unto You: Never Forget

By A. T. Griffey, III
Statistician, GBSC



Dr. A.T.
Griffey, III

It had been forty years since Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt. During their years of wandering in the desert, God demonstrated His faithfulness as well as His holiness. Now, as the people were finally ready to cross the Jordan river into the promised land of Canaan, Moses gave one last encouragement.

Deuteronomy 6:10-12
"When the Lord your God brings you into the land He swore to your fathers - a land with large, flourishing cities you did not build, houses filled with all kinds of good things you did not provide, wells you did not dig, and vineyards and olive groves you did not plant - then when you eat and are satisfied, be careful that you do not forget the Lord, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery."

We have all lived in the land of slavery - a land where we were controlled by sin. We were born as slaves, but Jesus came to set us free: "Though you used to be slaves to sin, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted. You have been set free" (Romans 6:17-18).

While we were still lost in our sinful condition, Jesus gave His life on the cross as a sacrifice (payment) for our sin - but

He also broke the chains which kept us slaves to sin. Though we may still struggle, we need not be mastered if we have placed our faith in Jesus and daily submit to the leading of His Spirit. His sacrifice provides a way to be "heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ" (Romans 8:17). This IS a victorious life!

Yes we have been set free! But we did nothing to earn this freedom. We did not dig a well of righteousness or plant a field of forgiveness. Our "promised land" of freedom is a gift, given by a loving Father to those who believe.

As we continue on our Christian walk, with its many peaks and valleys, twists and turns, we often forget. We become discouraged over trivial matters which are quickly fading away and forget the gift of eternal life we have been given. We wander in the dry desert of ungrateful hearts and ask, "Where is God?" We forget the joy we once had of abiding in His presence and forget His promise to

always be near; "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5).

Through God's precious gift, we have an eternity

to worship our Heavenly Father. This alone should give us reason to praise His Name with every breath and live a life holy and pleasing to Him. Whether we are currently in a time of crushing trials or unparalleled peace, we must continually look from where we were rescued. His gift was our greatest blessing; and as we draw near and give Him more of our heart, His grace will continue to bless us in abundance. Let's worship with a thankful heart, glorify His Name in ALL we do, and be careful to never forget.

Have a Great Day!

"Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5)

PREACHER'S HOOPER SERMON REPORT 2003

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06. Dangerous Minds
07. Don't Even Think About It
08. Fired Up By The Holy Ghost
09. Are You Full Of The Stuff
10. Let's Get On Board
11. God Picked Me To Be On His Side
12. Grace On The Race
13. Grow Up Or Blow Up
14. Hang In There
15. He Lifted Me Up Out Of The Miry Clay
16. Look Where The Lord Has Brought Me From
17. If My People
18. We Can Do It For A New Day Has Come
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20. Put Some Clothes On Child
21. A Right Thing In A Wrong Time
22. The Man Who Had Everything But The Right Thing
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24. Stay On The Lord's Side
25. If You Take One Step He'll Take Two
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27. I Can't Lose With The Stuff I Use
28. You Can't Touch This
29. Warm In A Cold Situation
30. That's The Way He Died But That's Not The End Of The Story
31. What You See Is What You Get
32. What's Faith Got To Do With It
33. You Can't Make It Without God
34. I Just Want To Say... "Thank You Lord"
35. A Heart Like Thine
36. Just A Closer Walk With Thee
37. Give Me A Clean Heart So I Can Serve You
38. What Ever The Problem God Has The Answer
39. Peace - In The Midst Of My Storm
40. I Am On The Right Road, Now!
41. A Good Man In A Bad Situation
42. Good Medicine For A Bad Ailment
43. Stand Up And Testify
44. Bad Boys! What You're Going To Do When He Comes For You
45. Angels Just Keep Watching Over Me
46. Go Ahead! Make My Day
47. A Trip To The Cross
48. Jesus! Jesus! Jesus! He Is Somebody's Preacher
49. On The Day Of Pentecost
50. Jesus Is All That! And A Whole Lot More
51. Muddy Putty In The Potter's Hands
52. When Stress Controls You Jesus Consoles You
53. Black Men And Women, Young And Old, Changing A Generation
54. I Am Black But I Am Somebody
55. Staying Afloat In A Sinking Boat
56. He That Has A Friend Must Show Himself Friendly
57. Victory Is Mine
58. Occupy Till I Come
59. A Man On A Mission / The Borrowed Ax
60. Busy In God's Business
61. That's Just Like Mama
62. He's Alive And I Am Glad About It
63. What The World Needs Now Is Love Sweet Love
64. I Moved From My Old House And My Old Friends
65. I Just Want To Know Why
66. What Do You Do When Life Is Not Fair
67. Why Do Bad Things Happen To Good People
68. What Do You Do When Your Brook Runs Dry
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83. Answering God's Call
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Mount Carmel Missionary Baptist Church, Inc.

Revival Services September 29 - October 4, 2003



Dr. Robert H. Wilson
Revival Preacher

Schedule of Worship Services

• 6:30 p.m. Nightly •

Lecturer: Pastor Robet McLaughlin
United Friendship, Greensboro

• 7:30 p.m. Nightly •

Evangelist: Dr. Robert H. Wilson, Sr.
Cornerstone Baptist Church of Christ Dallas, TX
Director of Congress of Christian Workers, NBCA, Inc.



Dr. A.T. Griffey, III
Senior Pastor

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By Delores Griffey

Strong as Samson or Like Samson?

You have heard this story already even before today. It may have been a little different than you have heard it before, but you got the gist of the story. Let me go back and fill in a few details. Samson was a Hebrew leader during a dark time of their history. The story comes from the book of Judges and many times throughout that book we read the words, "The Israelites did evil in the sight of the Lord and he gave them over to..." You can fill in the blank with various enemies of the Hebrew people. Then after a while the Lord would take pity on the Hebrews and send them a powerful ruler to get them out of trouble. They called these leaders judges.



Delores Griffey

That is how we get to Samson. From the time he was born his parents knew Samson was going to be someone special. The angel of the Lord had told them so. Furthermore, his parents were told that Samson was to be a Nazarite. That

means he was never to cut his hair or shave his beard or drink alcoholic beverages. We don't know much of his childhood, but when he got to be a young adult, he found that he had unusual strength, and so he liked to taunt his enemies, the Philistines.

He decided to pick a wife, but for him, it would be too simple and not nearly as much fun to pick a Hebrew wife. He had to have a Philistine wife. So he goes to a Philistine village to have a date with this girl he had been eyeing. On the way he kills a lion with his bare hands. A few days later he goes back to marry this Philistine girl and on the way he finds and eats some honey from the carcass of the lion he had killed a few days earlier.

Samson, being the sly guy that he was, decided to make a riddle about his lion and taunt the Philistine men. He said, "Out of the eater came something to eat. Out of the strong came something sweet." The Philistines couldn't figure it out so they asked his new bride to do some private eye work and find the answer. She tried to get Samson to give her the answer, but he wouldn't do it until she started begging and pleading. So after seven days the Philistines came

to Samson and solved the riddle saying, "What is sweeter than honey? What is stronger than a lion?" Samson was so mad that he killed 30 Philistines.

He left for a while, so his wife was given to someone else. So you can imagine that there was quite a situation when Samson decided he wanted to go back and claim his wife. He took three hundred foxes and set their tails on fire and sent them through the grain fields. The Philistine crops were destroyed.

The saga continues. The Philistines attack the Hebrews and the Hebrews give Samson over to the Philistines. But the Bible says the Lord caused the ropes to be burned off his hands, and Samson then took the jawbone of a donkey and killed a thousand Philistines.

And, so the story goes, Samson was the happy ruler of the Hebrew people for nearly twenty years when he gets into woman trouble again. Evidently the Hebrew women bored him, so he always had to go and check out the Philistine women. Even if he had to resort to prostitutes, he would go to the Philistine women.

We don't have many details from Samson's life, so we don't really know when he began to slip up. If you ask me, he never was that much of an upright character. All of us are human after all. But the Bible suggests that Samson was under the Lord's leadership in his earlier mischief because of his shady dealings with the Philistines brought about independence for the Hebrews. But somewhere along the way the story implies that Samson started to cross the line. He started hanging with a bad crowd and it was all down hill from there.

We hear the same story a lot today. I hear it from parents. They say, "My Johnny was the perfect little angel, but now he has started hanging with the wrong crowd and he is different." Often the story gets worse from there. Johnny gets addicted to drugs or Johnny falls into a life of crime or Johnny kills himself or someone else. That may seem a little drastic, but too often it is true. It has probably happened to some of your friends.

We know what happened in the Samson story. Samson falls in lust with this Philistine woman named Delilah and after several tries she discovers the secret to his strength. She cuts his hair and the Philistine men come and tie him up and gouge out his eyes. They put him to work as a slave and make a spectacle of him at a public event.

You are going back to school this month, others have already started and that means a lot of things for you. It means new opportunities, new decisions to be made, the reuniting of friends, and

the making of new ones. And yes it means you have to do your homework again. But it also means a good opportunity to start hanging out with the wrong people in the wrong places.

When Samson started hanging with the wrong crowd he found himself disarmed and beaten. If you hang with the wrong crowd, I promise you, they will bring you down. You might think you are as strong as Samson, but in the end even Samson's strength was not enough to keep him out of danger when he was hanging with the wrong crowd.

In this youth group you have people who can be good for you. They can help bring you up instead of bringing you down. Hang with this group. You all can be a support group for one another. You don't all go to the same schools, and even if you do you may not see each other that often, but you can still be a support group for each other. You can be good for each other here on Sundays and Wednesdays and during other youth events, and you can look out for one another when you are away from here. You need to be a good crowd to hang with.

I don't mean from this that I want you to stay away from everybody out there in the world that doesn't know God — or doesn't act like it. We are to be a witness to those people, and we can't witness to them if we stay away from them. But there is a difference between being a witness and hanging out with the wrong crowd. You talk to these people and try to be their friends, but you do not join in the bad things they are doing.

Samson messed up. He let bad company bring him down, but according to the story he redeemed himself in the end. He asked for one more burst of power to bring down the foundations of the amphitheater. God granted his request and Samson killed three thousand Philistines, but he also died in the rubble.

You might say, "Well, I'm not going to worry about it. If my friends bring me down, God will always forgive me." That is true, but you may still have to pay the consequences for your actions. God forgave Samson and he regained his strength, but that did not change the fact that he was blind and that in the end he died. You may want to experiment with certain behaviors or with certain substances, and yes God will forgive you if you do. But God may not put back lives that are taken, brain cells lost, or friends forsaken. You will have to pay the consequences like Samson.

So go in peace and be strong. Help each other and instead of being brought down by a bad crowd, share Christ by the way you live and by the words you say.

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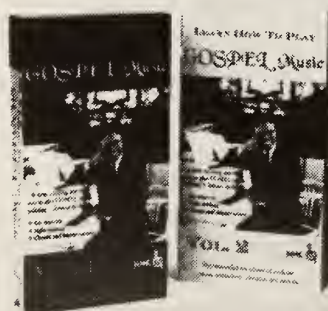
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S&H

What Level Is Your Usher Auxiliary

Submitted by Forest M. Eaves, Jr.
President, Ushers

Level 1: Usher absenteeism is a problem. Not enough ushers. No first aid kit readily available. No training sessions are held.



Mr. Forest Eaves

A source of complaint to the pastor. Dress code not adhered to. Nobody in charge, work station cluttered. No emergency exit plan.

Level 2: Entrance generally clean, some training taking

place on key issues. Minimum emergency exit plan in place but not practiced. Group shows some evidence of team concept. A few ushers generally on time and in place, starting to see the need and importance of ushering.

Level 3: The workstation is generally clean. Ushers are on time. Group

understands the importance of an emergency exit plan. Meetings address concerns. Usher group is a viable ministry. Devotion held before service. Group performance critiqued on a regular basis. Visual signs are used. The head usher is apparent. A schedule is used. Absenteeism is at a minimum. Some training standards and materials are being used. Group is starting to focus on parishioners' needs.

Level 4: An emergency exit plan is in place and practiced once per year. The workstation is generally clean. Exit signs are prominently displayed. The Auxiliary meets monthly. Complaints are addressed promptly. Improvement is evident by the church's comments. Members are on time and ready for service. All ushers have received standard training. Ushers are courteous, absenteeism is not a problem and cross training is taking place.

Level 5: The workstation is spotless, clean and easy to maintain. The quality of meetings is improving. Ushers are a source of pride for the church. Parishioners are happy and their needs

are met. Members training 10 hours per year is available on a regular basis with recognition. Most members can provide coaching. Emergency exit plans are part of the church's calendar. Absenteeism is less than one usher per service. Ushers are pleasant, courteous, on time, properly dressed, and attend to their personal spiritual growth by attending Bible study, prayer services, Sunday school and activities of other Church auxiliaries for their spiritual growth and development.

OFFICIAL HANDBOOK

Holy Bible

A Ministry of Service, A Ministry of Joy: By Haywood T. Gray

NORTH CAROLINA BAPTIST
STATE USHER'S CONVENTION
DRESS CODES:

Female Ushers Uniform

White uniform with white shoes (heel and toes enclosed), white hose and white gloves.

Male Ushers Uniform

Black or dark blue suit with White shirt, Black tie, Black socks with Black shoes and white gloves.

Girl Ushers

Skirt: Black or Blue; Blouse: White long sleeves; Shoes: Black; Gloves: White.

Boy Ushers

Suit: Black or Blue; Shirt: White; Tie: Long Black or Blue; Shoes: Black; Gloves: White.

FIVE DO'S

Do become a disciple of Jesus Christ
Do treat everybody with respect
Do be courteous, pleasant and neat
Do make your auxiliary stronger. ■

GBSC UPCOMING SESSIONS

2003 - 2006

YEAR	CITY	HOST
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MID-YEAR

2004	Roxboro	Shady Hill
2005	Elizabeth City	St. Stephens
2006	Wilmington	Shiloh
2004 - July	All Baptist Assembly	Winston-Salem

ANNUAL

2003	Charlotte	Ebenezer
2004	Salisbury	Mt. Zion Adjourn Session
2005	Asheville	Mt. Zion
2006	Raleigh	Martin Street

TRINITY SESSION

2003	Charlotte	Second Calvary
2005	Fayetteville	Union Association
2006	Reidsville	Zion

EVANGELISM CONFERENCE

2004	Greensboro	East White Oak
2005	Charlotte	Chappell Memorial
2006	Winston-Salem	Galilee Missionary

NORTH CAROLINA BAPTIST USHER CONVENTION AUXILIARY TO THE GENERAL BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION OF N.C., INC.

Opportunity for service with the National Baptist Convention U.S.A., Inc. Ushers and Nurses Auxiliary

The National Baptist Convention Ushers' and Nurses Auxiliary are in need of a recording secretary. An usher or nurse who attends the convention, September Annual Session and Mid-Winter Board meeting in January. This is a voluntary service with an honorarium.

The requirements are:

1. Must be present at the beginning and ending of each meeting.
2. Must be on time for each meeting.
3. Must be able to record minutes in each session.
4. Give auxiliary president a typed copy of daily minutes each day.
5. At the end of each session, a compiled typed copy, sent to the president one week after the session is closed.

The person must be committed to the above requirements.

Please send a brief resume to:

Mr. Forest M. Eaves, Jr.

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NORTH CAROLINA BAPTIST USHER'S CONVENTION

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"A Ministry Of Joy."**

Mr. Forest M. Eaves, Jr. - President

Convention News

Mary M. McKoy Belle, Secretary/Reporter
North Carolina Baptist Usher's Convention

"Praise ye the Lord. Praise God in His sanctuary: praise Him in the firmament of His power. Praise Him for His mighty acts: praise Him according to His excellent greatness. Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet: praise Him with the psaltery and harp. Praise Him with the timbrel and dance: praise Him with the stringed instruments and organs. Praise Him with the loud cymbals: praise Him with the High sounding cymbals. Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord."

I greet you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ! The 150 Psalm is an appropriate scripture that I chose to describe the praises offered to our God during the 54th Annual Session of the North Carolina State Usher's Convention held July 19 (2003) in Charlotte, NC. Ushers from churches and various associations from across the state were welcomed by Reverend Ralph M. McCormick, Host Pastor, officers, ushers and the family of Second Calvary Baptist Church, and the ushers of District III.

Following a glorious processional, Second Vice President and Worship Chairperson, Mr. Charles Dunn, led the spiritual devotion as we sang praises to our God ... Glory Hallelujah! Third Vice President, Mr. Archie Lofton read the 84 Psalm and the morning prayer rendered by Mr. Norman Dorsey, Fourth Vice President, further echoed the thought that "the Lord is worthy to be praised!"

First Vice President, Mrs. Helen Thompson, presided eloquently and consistently spoke of the goodness of God during the Usher's Convention; one of three auxiliaries comprising the 3rd Trinity Annual Sessions of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc.

Reverend Marvin T. Clowney, Dean and Pastor of the First Baptist Church, Clinton, NC presented a workshop which was spirit-filled and informational. Reverend Clowney directed our attention to II Timothy 1:15-17 ("You are aware that all who are in Asia have turned away from me, including Phygelus and Hermongenes. May the Lord bless the household of Onesiphorus, because he often refreshed me and was not ashamed

of my chain. When he arrived in Rome, he eagerly searched for me and found me.") The workshop topic, appropriately chosen, by our visionary Dean, Reverend Clowney, was entitled, *Ushering: A Ministry of Refreshment*. The following narrative summarized some of the discussion presented by Dean Clowney during the outstanding workshop.

If pastors and ministers are expected to have impeccable character then it seems evident that all of us should possess character that is parallel in comparison. He suggested that ushers abandon the use of the word "Board" as they refer to the ushers' auxiliary in the church. Reverend Clowney emphasized the fact that *Ushering is a Ministry*. Ushers need not think that they are better than other individuals in the church. Ushers should possess a quality, however, we were told by Dean Clowney, that other individuals may or may not possess. We meet and greet people who have come to the church often broken. They believe that God has something for them. It is the ushers' task and the minister's task to get them ready for what God has for them. Ushers have been endowed with the ability to serve people. Ushers should reach out to people, care for people, love people, accept people as they are. He stated that one of the downfalls in the church is that we can not accept people as they are. Christ has accepted us. He knew all about us before we wanted to be healed. Ushers should above all and foremost love God. If we love God then we should surrender ourselves to Him. People are coming to church seeking a moment of *fresh air*. They are coming believing the word of God. They come believing that He will

task to breathe on people when they arrive. Ushers should be the *refreshment* to the various worshippers that arrive at the church. Ushers should be ready to offer just a cup of cool water or just a *cup* of kindness. God has promised that we will not go lacking if we are not selfish in giving to others. A little *refreshment* or kindness sometimes is all that is needed. Finally we should be the people who offer people a little comfort, a little hope, a little ease, in order that they might be able to get what they really need from the Lord. Dean Clowney referred to Paul's appreciation of Onesiphorus' character. He was Paul's *breath of fresh air*. Ushers must be brave people who are willing to give of themselves in order to help others. Ushers must be willing to step out of their comfort zone. Ushers must have a clear purpose, a firm faith, and a contagious enthusiasm to do God's work. God needs some ushers who do not mind bracing up other people. Reverend Clowney asked the ushers if they were willing to go through the furnace, the crucible of suffering. *Ushering should be a Ministry of Refreshment*. We thank God for Dean Clowney's insight and contributions to the Usher's Convention.

We were delighted to have Dr. Archie Logan, Secretary/Treasurer of the General Baptist State Convention address the Usher's Convention. Dr. Logan discussed plans for providing more training and teaching through the General Baptist State Convention. We were especially grateful for his choice of attire during the convention. In addition to Dr. Logan's black suit, he wore the state usher's pin and the new state usher's gloves. Please call president Eaves or Dr. Logan for more information regarding the purchase of the pin and gloves.

Dr. William A. Thurston discussed his commitment to make disciples of men. He stated that God has people already assigned to us as ushers to assist in becoming disciples. He stated that ushers should be spending quiet time with God. We must live in the word of God. We must be witnesses for Christ. Dr. Thurston is willing to come to various

churches and associations to discuss the organization of classes or workshops on Discipleship. We applaud Dr. Thurston for the enthusiasm that he has in responding to God's call for him to go ye therefore and make disciples of men.

All ushers attending the convention for the first time received a round of applause as First Vice President Thompson extended an invitation for them to stand. Mr. Cleveland Griffin, Mr. Charlie Rhoades and Mr. Charles Fletcher were recognized as past presidents.

Ms. Eddie Culbreth provided a workshop for the

youth and the adults in separate settings entitled "Getting to Heaven ... Healthy" and "Fire Safety Tips". Some of the health tips discussed by Ms. Culbreth were: Talk to your doctor if you think that you have high blood pressure.

Regular exercise by older women trims tummy fat and lowers the risk of heart disease.

- Eat a good breakfast.
- Choose food from the Four Food Groups.
- Get enough rest.
- Maintain the confidentiality or privacy of individuals.
- An Exercise Program may include brisk walking, running or cycling.
- **Learn to release stress by:**
 - Counting your blessings ... write them down
 - Taking deep breaths
 - Taking the bus instead of driving, occasionally
 - Pampering yourself
 - Working a crossword puzzle
 - Talking to someone if you have a problem
 - Go fishing
 - Take a child to the playground
 - Laugh a little
 - Learn how to say "No"
 - Take the back roads sometimes
 - Taking an exercise break

Ms. Culbreth continued her workshop presentation by offering these fire safety tips

For churches:

- Fire drills should be conducted every six (6) months.
- Use all exits to evacuate in an emergency.
- Caution! Be sure to move to exits away from the fire.
- Churches should have fire extinguishers.

CONVENTION - Cont'd on next page



Mary M. McKoy Belle



President and Mrs. (Hattie) Forest Eaves



Mrs. Nancy High

supply all of their needs. Ushers should turn on the air condition of the spirit. Worshippers should be able to inhale the fragrance of God spirit flowing through an usher. They should be hit with a *cool breeze of God's spirit*. If it is the task of ministers to breathe on people prior to leaving the church, then it is the ushers'

CONVENTION - Cont'd from page 14

- The aisles should be clutter free.
- Fines/Penalties could occur with violations.

Ushers, we certainly want to go to Heaven ... Healthy! In the meanwhile, let's make earth "heavenly" by using some of Ms. Culbreth's suggestions. We are blessed to have Ms. Culbreth, a registered nurse, in the Ushering Ministry.

Mrs. Annie Pegram, Youth Supervisor, extending greetings and presented information concerning the Youth Department. She also introduced the program prior to the youths' presentation of "A Prescription For Ushering From A-Z". The presentation began with: *A* is for attitude ... you must have a positive attitude. *B* represented believe ... you must believe in yourself. *C*

represented caring and commitment ... you must be committed to God first and then to ushering. The youth presentation ended with *Y* is for yoke ... we are bound together as ushers. *Z* is for zeal ... as ushers we must enjoy our work. Mrs. Pegram also presented the officers of the Youth Department: President, Chafe Thompson; First Vice President, Shequitta Crudup; Second Vice President, Phillip Clowney; Third Vice President, Ernest Scott; and Secretary, Ifetoya Hall. The Bible admonishes us to serve the Lord in the days of our youth. Therefore, we are proud of our youth for the desire that they have to do the Lord's work. Let us pray for all of our youth and the Youth Supervisors, Mrs. Annie Pegram, Mrs. Ruby Philyaw, and Mrs. Ruth Hawkins during her illness.

Vice President Thompson introduced our President, Mr. Forest Eaves. President Eaves has served as Vice President and President of the Ushers' Ministry at Friendship Missionary Baptist Church in Charlotte, NC. (Dr. Clifton Jones is Pastor.) He has served as president of the Usher's Auxiliary of the Mecklenburg Baptist Association. Mr. Eaves presently serves as President of District III Ushers' Ministry. He has also served as Fourth Vice President, Second Vice President, and First Vice President of the North Carolina Baptist Usher's Convention. President Eaves' motto is "Rendering service to God by rendering service to all". President Eaves, briefly, presented "Reflections" following a year of service:

"President, Dr. Charles Bullock,

Executive Secretary, Dr. Archie Logan, Reverend Ralph M. McCormick, Host Pastor, Officer and Pastors of the General Baptist State Convention, Fellow Ushers of the General Baptist Usher's Convention, I would like to introduce the officers. The officers are Mrs. Helen

Thompson, 1st Vice President, Fayetteville, North Carolina; Mr. Charles Dunn, Second Vice President, Worship Chairperson and Ways and Means Chairperson, Raleigh, North Carolina; Mr. Archie Lofton, Third Vice President and Finance Chairperson, Wilmington, North Carolina; Mr. Norman Dorsey, Fourth Vice President and By Laws Committee Chairperson, Elizabeth City, North Carolina; Ms. Mary McKoy Belle, Secretary, Four Oaks, North Carolina; Mrs. Joanne McNair, Assistant Secretary, Laurinburg, North Carolina; Reverend Marvin T.

Clowney, Dean and Pastor of First Baptist Church, Clinton, North Carolina; Mr. Roy Harris, Assistant Dean, Asheville, North Carolina; Mrs. Nancy High, State Coordinator, Zebulon, North Carolina; Mrs. Mary Williams, Parliamentarian and Historical Committee Chairperson, Louisburg, North Carolina (Mrs. Williams has served on the Executive Board for more than fifty (50) years); Mrs. Ruby Philyaw, Youth Supervisor and Program Chairperson, Durham, North Carolina; Mrs. Ruth Hawkins, Assistant Youth Supervisor, Henderson, North Carolina; and Mrs. Annie Pegram, Assistant Youth Supervisor and Memorial Committee Chairperson, Durham, North Carolina.

The North Carolina Baptist Usher's Convention, Auxiliary to the General Baptist State Convention, held its Executive Board Retreat at 12:00 p.m. at the J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly, Laurel Hill, NC on November 8, 2002.

Our Annual Ushers' Workshop was also held at the J. J. Johnson Assembly, Laurel Hill, NC at 10:00 a.m. on November 9, 2002.

The One Day Session of the North Carolina Baptist Usher's Convention was held in Winston-Salem, NC at the Benton Convention Center of Saturday, February 22, 2003. We thank Dr. Gregory T. Headen, Pastor, and the Genesis Baptist Church for hosting this

session. We are also appreciative to our guest speaker, Dr. Cardes Brown, Pastor, and the choir of New Light Baptist Church, Greensboro, NC.

On Friday, July 18, 2003 our Executive Board met at 5:00 p.m. at the Second Calvary Baptist Church to continue plans for the convention. This meeting was one of five Executive Board meetings held this year.

It is my recommendation that all ushers read and study A Ministry of Service: A Ministry of Joy, by Dr. Haywood T. Gray, Pastor of the Temple Memorial Baptist Church, High Point, NC.

I would also like to recommend that we have more workshops and training for everyone including our youth.

I would like to thank all of you for coming to the convention. I pray that God will grant you traveling mercy as you return to your homes. May God continue to bless all of you."

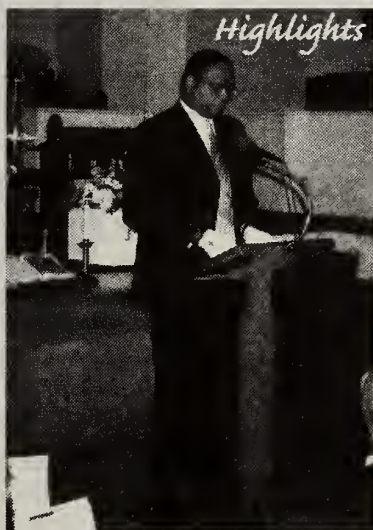
Let us continue to encourage and pray for our brother and leader, Mr. Eaves. We thank God for Mr. Eaves' commitment to serve the present age ... to serve as the President of the North Carolina Baptist Usher's Convention.

Reverend Clowney, our Dean, not only presented a workshop earlier in the convention, but he preached the word of God! He lifted a thought from II Timothy 1:3-9, "How Is The Fire In Your Spirit". Reverend Clowney encouraged us to focus on the things that will catch the heart rather than the things in the world that are attractive to the eyes. The things that catch the heart are more meaningful. They are the things that we can use in the time of difficulties. We must therefore be prepared. God does not mean for us to be mediocre Christians. God does not mean for us to give lackluster service. We should have a burning passion within us

are saved, then you should not mind telling others. We were cautioned, however, to not be self-centered in our own salvation that we not seek the salvation of others. Ushers should understand that before we became ushers God had given us a commission. It is our responsibility to witness. Ushers let the world

know that you are a child of God. What ever we may claim to be, he stated, we are first and foremost a soul winner. Ushers should not get so wrapped up or concerned with the duties and forget that God has called us to tell about the *Good News* of Jesus Christ. It was God who struck the match and lit the flame within our soul. If you know Christ, then there ought to be a passion burning on the inside. There should be a passion for people who are different from ourselves that need to know that the Lord is real. They need to know that the Lord is an able Savior. They need to know that the Lord will stand by them. They need to know that the Lord is in us. Paul seemed to know that Timothy had this kind of passion inside of him. Paul encourages Timothy to let the fire continue to burn. He tells in other words to *stoke the fire*. We need to stoke the fire in our lives to avoid coldness or dampness to set up in us ... Glory to God! If we stoke the fire that is in us the Holy Ghost will stir up the fire ... Hallelujah! Sometimes our cares and worries burn in our soul. We realize that our spiritual temperatures have dropped. We lack the get up and go mentality. Our zeal is gone. We tell the Lord that our flame is out. We need Him to turn up the heat within us. We need to know that God has not left us. There are people in the church whose pilot light has gone out. There are people whose flame is burning low. They are walking around going through Christian motions. Reverend Clowney continued and stated that they need to go back to the altar and ask the Lord to rekindle the flame. Reverend Clowney told us to check our own flame. We need not blame someone else if our fire goes out. He reminded us that we forget to stoke the fire every now and then. Many times Christian people come to church and do not bring anything with them. The pastor or minister is expected to stir up the fire. As Christians if we come with something, God will fill us up until the fire overflows. It's not enough to stop doing what the world is doing. We ought to be an example. We should be able to tell other people what God has done for us. People need to know that God will do the same for them. Tell somebody about the goodness of God! My brothers and sisters, the power of Reverend Clowney's message can not be captured in this brief summary ...

CONVENTION - Cont'd on next page



Dr. Archie Logan, Ex. Sec. GBSC



Youth Ushers at the 54th Annual Convention

not only for our well-being, but, for the well-being of our brothers and our sisters. Reverend Clowney stated that we need to affirm and reaffirm our salvation. If you

CONVENTION - Cont'd from page 15

Glory Hallelujah! To God be the Glory!

Thank you, Reverend Clowney, for reminding us how and why the fire needs to be stoked! Ushers, let's keep the fire burning within us ... Praise God!

President Eaves and the officers appreciate your attendance during the 3rd Trinity Sessions. We applaud the ushers of Second Calvary Baptist Church and the ushers of District III for the service rendered at the Trinity Session. Please make plans now to attend the Annual Workshop at the J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly, Laurel Hill, NC. The Saturday, November 8, 2003 workshop will begin at 9:00 a.m. All Executive Board members are requested to attend an Officers Retreat on Friday, November 7, 2003 at 3:00 p.m. at the same site.

Auxiliary News

The Johnston District Missionary Baptist Ushers' Union held its 20th Annual Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, June 14, 2003. First Missionary Baptist, Smithfield, NC hosted the 8:00 a.m. fellowship. Mrs. Veronica J. Surles presided and elaborated on the general theme "To Serve This Present Age". (Ephesians 4:11-12), briefly. A hospitable welcome, a carefully chosen scripture, and a genuine prayer were offered by Mrs. Flora Grantham, Mrs. Shirley Barnes, and Dr. Charles Whittenburg. Our Heavenly Father was further glorified as we sang several songs of praise to Him.

Following a wonderful breakfast, Reverend Marvin Mervin, Pastor, New Bethel Baptist Church, Clayton, NC was introduced by Deacon George Alford.

Reverend Mervin stated that the blessings will flow after we get our souls right with God. If a person mistreats us, we must forgive him. Bad attitudes have no place in God's house. We use our tongues to worship God. We then use that same tongue to curse a brother or sister. Ushers must study, focus and grow on the word of God. Reverend Mervin reminded us that we were doing the Master's work.

Dr. Joseph Rogers, Moderator (Johnston District Missionary Baptist Association) and Pastor, Philadelphia Baptist Church, Raleigh, NC extended greetings. Reverend T. C. McCullers, Pastor, Ebenezer Baptist Church, Kenly, NC made remarks. President Mary M. Belle thanked everyone for attending the wonderful morning of fellowship.

The Pastor, Reverend Matthew Silver, ushers, officers and the family of Pineywood Chapel Missionary Baptist Church celebrated their 74th Usher's Anniversary, June 29, 2003. Joining

them as the guest speaker for the 11:00 a.m. service was Reverend James Freeman. He was accompanied by the ushers and choir of Mount Olive



1st Vice President Helen Thompson

Missionary Baptist Church, Durham, NC. The theme for the service was "Servants Rendering Service" (Psalm 84:1-12). Reverend Freeman used several scriptures, I Corinthians 12:27-28; Psalms 49:2, and Psalm 12:1 to preach a soul stirring sermon using a simple text, "HELPS". The following points were highlighted during this soul stirring message:

Ushering is not a small task. Ushering is a Ministry. It is a ministry of helping and it is a spiritual ministry. It is only effective when implemented with love.

As servants of God the Ushers' Ministry is that of helping God's people. The Ministry of Ushering evolves around worship, discipleship, evangelism, fellowship, and service.

We need to move from the "board"

concept of ushering. We should understand that ushering is another ministry for meeting the spiritual and physical needs of the church.

Before techniques are masters, one's spirituality needs to be mastered. To be effective as an usher, you must be part of a community of believers. Ushers will never know how to talk to people until we learn what to say to them. We need to know the word of God. Ushers need to attend Bible Study, Sunday School, and Prayer Service.

Mrs. Clarece Holley stated that the choir and ushers did an outstanding job. Reverend Wallace Wynn gave the benediction and offered the blessing prior to the repast in the Fellowship Hall. It was truly a great day!

Announcements

District III ushers' quarterly meeting will be held from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Saturday, September 27, 2003 at the Reeder Memorial Baptist Church, 3725 Beatties Ford Road, Charlotte, NC. Uniforms are not necessary.

First Mount Zion Baptist, 1515 Remount Road, will host District III Annual Fall Musical Concert, Sunday, October 26, 2003 at 3:00 p.m.; Dr. C. V. Owens, Host Pastor.

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North Carolina Baptist Usher's Convention *Officers' Retreat*

When: Friday, November 7, 2003

Where: J.J. Johnson Baptist Assembly
Laurel Hill, NC

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Annual Workshop

When: Saturday, November 8, 2003

Where: J.J. Johnson Baptist Assembly
Laurel Hill, NC

Time: 9:00 a.m.

REGISTRATION \$10.00

Mr. Forest M. Eaves, Jr., President
Voice Mail: (704) 372-5338 • Fax: (704) 372-0014

Mary M. McKoy, Secretary • (919) 963-3368
Email: JoyMinistry@aol.com

3rd Annual Crime & Incarceration Conference

Michael R. Smith, Sr., Chairman

"Strategies To Reach Our At Risk Youth" was the theme for the 3rd Annual Crime & Incarceration



Rev. Michael Smith, Sr.

Conference which was held August 1-2, 2003 at historic Shaw University's Thomas Boyd Chapel. This timely conference's purpose was to listen to expert resource persons who deal with at-risk youth and develop strategies to be implemented by local churches. I will continue to prophetically call the GBSC to prioritize the crime and incarceration crisis that is impacting

the youth of our state and throughout the nation. The conference resource persons gave insightful information and innovative ideas. The keynote speaker was **Reverend Christopher M. Houston** who serves as Chaplain with the N. C. Department of Juvenile Justice at the C. A. Dillon Youth Development Center in Butner, N. C. His two key note messages highlighted the conference and were entitled, **"From Your History Must Come Your Victory: The Personal and Corporate Struggle of At-Risk Youth"** and **"Who's Got My Blessing? The Two-Fold Purpose of a Church at Work With At-Risk Youth"**. Reverend Houston's ministry is vital as he works with young men who are facing their last chance with the Juvenile Justice system before incarceration. The other resource persons are listed below. The conference was centered on each attendee sub-

mitting the Strategic Response Form which will be used to compile their input and sent out to GBSC churches for implementation.

The conference revealed there is much work to do as the Body of Christ in the area of at-risk youth. I want the GBSC to know this effort must take the local church, social services, public school systems, law enforcement, correctional systems, and the judicial systems working together in an effort to prevent at-risk youth from destructive lifestyles, incarceration, and premature death. Our biblical foundation for the conference was taken from Psalm 119:9-11. The Lord has always desired for the youth come to Him. I believe it is high time for us to reassess our priorities and reevaluate our effectiveness in reaching the youth in our communities. The day is over just for the traditional "youth program". There are many youth who will only be reached as we go out to the troubled homes and places in our communities with the love of Christ. The only question is what is the Church willing to do to reach a young persons who is heading the wrong way?

Wavey B. Williams – army-ofchrist1@excite.com
Founder, A.R.M.Y. of Christ Ministries – Gastonia, NC

George E. Currie – cge03@doc.state.nc.us
Superintendent – Polk Youth Center – Butner, NC

TK Jordan – byfaithoutreach@yahoo.com
Entrepreneur / Author – Sanford, NC

W. Edward Privette – ed_privette@pfm.org
Executive Director – Prison Fellowship Ministries – NC, SC, KY

Betty A. Brown – bba07@doc.state.nc.us
Director of Chaplaincy Services for N. C. Division of Prisons

David C. Forbes, Sr. – cfbc@bellsouth.net
Senior Pastor, Christian Faith Baptist Church – Raleigh, NC

Michael J. Pope – selfawareness@usa.net
ISM At-Risk Youth Coordinator – Raleigh, NC

Johnny Blalock
Community Activist – Raleigh, NC

I encourage you to contact these resource persons if your church or organization is need of help in responding to at-risk youth.

SEE HIGHLIGHTS ON PAGE 21 ■

IMPORTANT ISM ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CONTACTS

"CRIME & INCARCERATION MINISTRY TRAINING WILL SOON BE AVAILABLE ON A QUARTERLY BASIS FOR ALL INTERESTED CHURCHES, INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS"
Time & Location – TBA

CROSS OF CHRIST CHURCH MINISTRIES

A ministry dedicated to promoting biblical discipleship in fulfillment of the Great Commission – Matthew 28:18-20
Planting and equipping churches to respond to crime and incarceration.
Contact info – Michael R. Smith, Sr., M. Div.
O – 919-575-3900 ext. 6203 / mrsmith@bop.gov
H – mrsmithgbsc@aol.com or disciplescross@aol.com

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLACKS IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE – (NABCJ)

NATIONAL RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS ASSOCIATION – (NRAA)

President – Rev. Warren H. Dolphus – wdolphus57@aol.com

P. O. Box 77075, Washington, DC 20013

Tel. 703-765-4459 Fax 703-765-9761

"Rallying and Enhancing the Service of the Black Church on Issues of Crime Prevention, Intervention, and Criminal Justice"

PRISON FELLOWSHIP MINISTRIES – www.pfm.org

W. Edward Privette, Area Director, Ed_Privette@pfm.org

P. O. Box 5892, Cary, North Carolina 27512

Tel. 919-481-0677 Fax 919-481-0608

Conference Resource Persons

Christopher M. Houston – Christopher.houston@ncmail.net
Chaplain N. C. Dept. of Juvenile Justice – C. A. Dillon Youth Development Center

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GBSC to participate in tobacco prevention initiative

Submitted by Anita P. Holmes, JD, MPH,
Executive Director

The Office of Health and Human Services, in conjunction with the General Baptist State Convention affiliated Center for Health and Healing, is pleased to announce its selection to participate in a statewide initiative funded by the NC Health and Wellness Trust Fund Commission to help prevent North Carolina teens from using tobacco products.



Dr. Anita
Holmes

The Center/GBSC is one of four programs selected to address this important issue as part of their Priority Populations Awards. Projects are funded for a three-year period. Other funded projects are Old North State Medical Society (\$785,000), El Pueblo (\$465,000), and NC Commission of Indian Affairs (\$475,000). The Center will continue to expand its partnership with the Old North State Medical Society and work cooperatively with other programs.

As part of this three-year project, the Convention will have an opportunity to pilot a relatively new health education methodology. The methodology, photovoice, will be a part of a training program designed to increase youth and community awareness of tobacco's influence on the lives of youth and mobilize communities to address tobacco issues. Using the project model, we will work to eliminate smoking initiation among participating youth, decrease youth exposure to environmental smoke, increase participating youths' skills and behaviors for advocating smoking cessation among the youth's peer and adult network, and increase the youth and their support networks' ability to assist communities in addressing tobacco issues.

The project will recruit a cadre of youth, between the ages of 11 and 16, into Youth Action Teams (YATs) and train them to become holistic health advocates within their local church and community. The youth of each YAT will be trained in the principles and action plans of the *Picture Me Tobacco Free* photovoice program. The central focus of the *Picture Me Tobacco Free* photovoice program will be to document, from the African-American youths' perspective, the pervasive and pernicious influence of tobacco within the lives and communities of minority youth. The Baltimore youth photovoice project, on which this program is based, has

strongly demonstrated the method's effectiveness at providing a forum in which youth feel a sense of belonging, that their views are valued, and that they have the capability to contribute to their community's well-being.

A project pilot will be conducted in the geographical area of central Rowan district of the GBSC. Trained youth will be instrumental in conducting educational activities throughout the State. Youth Action Teams and congregations will develop action plans and develop exhibits for local and statewide displays (GBSC and community). We will also seek to give youth national exposure.

Tobacco use and exposure to second hand smoke are significant problems among African-American youth. The effects of tobacco exposure may be greater among African Americans because African Americans, as adults, "are at greater risk of developing long term consequences [of smoking] such as smoking-related heart disease, stroke, and lung cancer (CDC, 2002)." Targeted marketing of tobacco products among communities of color requires innovative approaches to prevent the initiation of tobacco use among African Americans.

The 2001 NC Youth Tobacco Survey found that 61.1% of African-American high school students had used tobacco products and 18% were current smokers; 47.6% of African-Americans middle school students had used tobacco products, and 18% were current smokers. The high rates of tobacco use among youth are problematic since most tobacco use begins while people are teens. Further, according to data from HANES, once African Americans begin smoking they are substantially less likely than others to quit smoking (CDC, 1998).

Environmental tobacco smoke is also a problem for African-American youth; 53.9% of NC African-American middle school youth students reported living with a smoker (Yeatts and Herget, 2001). Previous studies have also found that African Americans are more likely than whites to report living or working around environmental tobacco smoke (Pirkel, et al., 1996; Wagenknecht, et al., 1993; Overpeck and Moss, 1991).

Bob Robinson, Centers for Disease Control, has argued that each ethnic/racial group has a unique relationship with tobacco based on historical, social, and cultural factors. He argues that interventions that take into account these unique historical, social, and cultural factors will be more effective than interventions that do not. In fact, since there are generally lower rates of smoking among African-American youth compared to white and Hispanic youth, it is not clear whether tobacco use prevention is indeed a perceived priority among African-American

communities. Thus, the first step of a successful intervention will be to enhance the awareness of the hazards of exposure to tobacco products, both primary and secondary, among African-American youth.

The proposed project has the potential to build these factors into interventions aimed at preventing tobacco use initiation among African-American youth. By drawing on the wisdom of the Convention's leadership, the youth and

their mentors, the project will be uniquely able to address historical, social, and cultural factors in African-American communities as well as to link youth from faith communities to the tobacco prevention and control movement in NC.

The project is a collaborative effort with the GBSC Laymen's League and the Department of Health Education at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

Father of the Year

Submitted by Larree S. Cherry
Family Life Program Facilitator
GBSC Office of Health and Human Services
And the NC Practitioner Network for
Fathers & Families

Reverend James E. Jones, Jr., pastor of Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church in Lewiston, was among 15 men recently named Fathers of the Year by the N. C. Practitioners Network for Fathers and Families for their work strengthening families and communities across North Carolina.

The recipients were honored at the Strengthening Fathers, Families and Communities Statewide Fatherhood Conference, sponsored by the NCPNFF and the Winston-Salem Urban League and held recently at the Adam's Mark Winston Plaza Hotel in Winston-Salem.

Rev. Jones was noted for his service to families and communities in northeastern North Carolina. Rev. Jones is currently the Executive Director of the Northeast Center for Human Development, Inc., which is a non-profit organization based in Lewiston. The Center's goal is to bring about transformation in the areas of prevention and intervention as it relates to HIV, AIDS, and STD's; economic development, and empowerment for those in Bertie County and surrounding areas.

Under Jones' leadership, a Community Development and Outreach Center has been established which offers substance abuse and domestic violence counseling. He has initiated the develop-

ment of a thrift store and food bank, which serves the Lewiston community.

He also served as host pastor and a mentor for the FIT through FAITH (Fathers In Training through Families Abolishing Infant Mortality Through Health), Fatherhood Initiative of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc., Office of Health and Human Services. Ms. Larree S. Cherry served as Area Director, Mr. James Rayfield Outlaw was Project Coordinator.

Rev. Jones also served as host site manager of the Healthy Start Baby Love Plus Project for distribution of cribs and other baby items for the Hurricane Floyd and Flood Disaster Relief efforts for Bertie County at Mount Olive in March of 2002. He was also hired to be the Bertie County Youth Leadership Coordinator. In this capacity, he worked directly with youth and adults in Bertie County in developing the Guide Team.

Rev. Jones was born in Chesapeake, VA. He was educated in the public school systems of the Tidewater community. He is a 1995 recipient of a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from Norfolk State University.

In May of 1998, Jones graduated cum laude from the Samuel Dewitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University with a Master of Divinity degree. He is currently enrolled at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky pursuing a Doctor of Divinity degree with a concentration in Black Church Leadership.



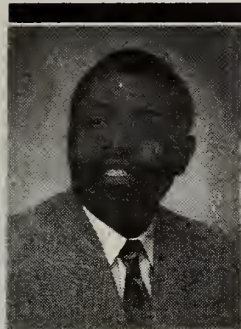
The Prayer Line

Rev. David K. Miles M.Div.
919-264-9249 9pm - 7am

CENTRAL CHILDREN'S HOME

Thought For The Month: "We'll Work Till Jesus Comes"

By Reverend Rickly L. Banks



Rev. Ricky Banks

God must have thought that work was

can't do anything, that is a cop-out. And it doesn't do to wait to be asked to do something. Everyone has a gift to use in the Lord's service, and maybe work is involved in discovering what

that gift is or how to use it. Christ said we could knock, and a door will be opened – and every-

Verse For The Month:

Whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed. (James 1:25.)

important to us, since He gave man dominion over the earth. After making man, He put him in the Garden of Eden to dress and to keep it. But work is many things besides what we call a job or career. Our hobbies, sports and other games, housekeeping, entertaining, volunteering – all involve work.

Jesus said, "My Father worketh hitherto, and I work." Everyone is expected to work, using the gift or gifts God has dispersed through the Holy Spirit. It doesn't do to sit back and say, I

one can knock. Everyone can love, everyone can sympathize, everyone can better his conservation or behavior pattern, and work to overcome fear.

News from our Central Children's Home is positive and exciting. The Home is up in population, services provided for the children have improved, the transitional classroom program is being worked out and the accreditation process is in the hands of the proper authority. We again this month thank you for your support and prayers, and we again this month need your support

and prayers to carry on the work at our Home. We ask pastors, churches, and associations to remember our Central Children's Home when you meet for the

Lord's work. Feel free to call us if we can be of service to you (252) 335-5003 or (252) 339-3438. Have A Blessed Month! ■

ANNOUNCEMENT...

CONGRESS OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ANNOUNCES GBSC BOOK SALES

We are encouraging all GBSC Pastors, Ministers and laypersons who have authored books and/or training manuals to contact us. It is the desire of our Congress President to expose your literary work to the Convention body and the general public. Many in our great GBSC family are not aware of all the talented authors we have in our state, whose books would be an asset to any Pastor, Minister or church seeking to do effective ministry in the twenty-first century.

All authors are asked to contact Dr. Johnny R. Freeman at (336) 272-0822 if you wish to have copies of your books made available during the upcoming Congress July 17-19. The location for this year's Congress is Second Calvary Baptist Church, 114 Nelson Ave., Charlotte, NC. There is no vendor fee to display your books during this event.

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CONTACT US TODAY

Prominent attorney and cable television executive Willie E. Gary and his



Dr. Leonzo Lynch

wife Gloria recently attended the Inaugural ceremony for Jacksonville, FL new Mayor John Peyton, who is serving as the co-chairman for the 2nd Annual Willie E. Gary Football Classic on Sept. 27 at Alltel Stadium in Jacksonville.

The Garys joined more than 3,000 people inside the Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts in Jacksonville to watch as Peyton took the oath of office with his wife Kathryn Pearson, whom he married on June 1, at his side. Peyton then delivered his first official speech as mayor of the city that will host the 2005 Super Bowl.

Gary, who is currently in the middle of a month-long trial in Raleigh, NC, flew into Jacksonville just to attend the inaugural ceremony.

"I just believe that when others support you, then you do whatever you can to show your support for them in return,"

MBC Chairman & CEO Attends Inaugural Party

Gary said. "The new mayor has pledged his support to our football classic and our efforts to raise money for these two Historically Black Colleges and Universities - Edward Waters College and Shaw University. The least that Gloria and I could do is be here to show our support for him during this joyous occasion."

Other prominent people in attendance included Jacksonville City Council President Lad Daniels, council Vice President Elaine Brown and former council president Jerry Holland - along with Peyton's five predecessors. U.S. Reps. Corrine Brown and Ander Crenshaw were both on hand, as was Florida House Speaker Johnnie Byrd.

Gary is known in legal circles as The Giant Killer for taking on some of America's most powerful corporations - winning billions of dollars in verdicts



Willie and Gloria Gary pose with Jacksonville, FL Mayor John Peyton and his wife Kathryn during the new mayor's inaugural reception in Jacksonville.

and settlements on behalf of his clients. In addition, he is chairman and CEO of the Major Broadcasting Cable Network

(MBC), the nation's only African American owned and operated 24-hour cable TV network, as well as MBC News: The Urban Voice, a 24-hour news network devoted to African Americans.

In 1994, Gary and his wife, Gloria, founded The Gary Foundation to provide college scholarships and educational support to at-risk students, who wish to attend college. The Garys have also supported many of Historically Black Colleges and Universities by donating hundreds of mil-

lions of dollars to dozens of schools throughout the country.

Shaw University Education Students Complete NASA Technology Institute

Shaw University Elementary Education students Kimberly Bryan, Jennifer Davis, Kesha King, and Roxanne Sykes recently completed the National Aeronautics and Space Administration/Norfolk State University (NASA/NSU) Pre-Service Teacher Institute (PSTI). The Institute began on July 20th and continued through August 1st in Hampton, VA at Langley Research Center. The program is a partnership between the Langley Office of Education and Norfolk State University's School of Education. The summer program is a two-week, residential institute for under-represented college students who are matriculating to become elementary or middle school teachers. It is designed to sharpen their teaching skills, to instruct future students in the subjects of integrated mathematics and science, and to utilize the best applications of classroom technology.

Shaw University Assistant Professor & Coordinator of Field Services, Internships, and Practice, Dr. Joyce Richardson, understands the value these students will bring to the classroom by participating in this type of training. Richardson comments, "I am elated that four pre-service teachers from our depart-

ment (were) chosen ... this experience will be ... valuable as they progress in their educational careers."

The Shaw University student representatives were normally on-site at NASA Langley Research Center from 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and were exposed to the following: Aircraft Landing Dynamics, Effective Lesson Plan Design, Learning Styles, Principles of Flight, Problem-Based Learning, Mathematics & the Graphing Calculator, Science - From Earth to the Stars, and Video Conferencing with NASA Centers.

During the second week of the institute, students taught children from a local school or learning center. Pre-service teachers also had the opportunity to interface with NASA's research scientists and educators.

Kimberly Bryan is a sophomore and a native of Raleigh, NC. Jennifer Davis is a sophomore and a Presidential Scholar. Davis is a native of Macon, NC. Kesha King is a junior and a member of the NC ETA Chapter of Alpha Chi National Honor Scholarship Society. King is a native of Wake Forest, NC. Roxanne Sykes is a junior and a Presidential Scholar. Sykes is a native of Broadnax, VA.

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Telephone: Home _____ Work _____

Address: _____

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100. Understanding The Church And Her Ministries: study of the meaning, mission and ministry of the church with emphasis on the various church ministries. T: 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., 6:15 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.

101. General Introduction to the Old Testament: overview of the Old Testament with focus on Hebrew history and faith. M: 6:15 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.

102. General Introduction to the New Testament: a look at the gospels with emphasis on the major events in Jesus' life. T: 6:15 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.

105. Leadership And Failure: a look at the causes, results and potential prevention of leadership failures in the Christian community. T: 6:15 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.

Electives

206. Preaching: exploration of sermon purpose, preparation and delivery with emphasis on moving the messenger from manuscript to the entire worship experience—Open to ordained and lay. Sat. 9:00 a.m. - 11: a.m.

207. Doing Theology: from a Christian perspective, theology is a process of thinking about life in the light of the Christian faith. This course engages students in the "doing" of theology—thinking theologically/theological reflection. Sat. 11:15 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Course Title	Course Code	Day/Time
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
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Total Amount Enclosed

Application Process (one time fee): \$15.00 * Registration: \$15.00 * Tuition (per class): \$150.00 * Checks payable to Grace Baptist Church

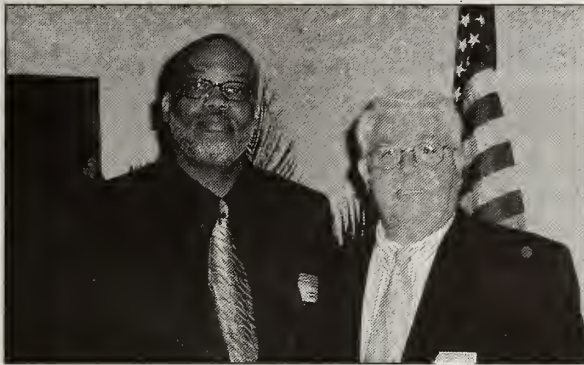
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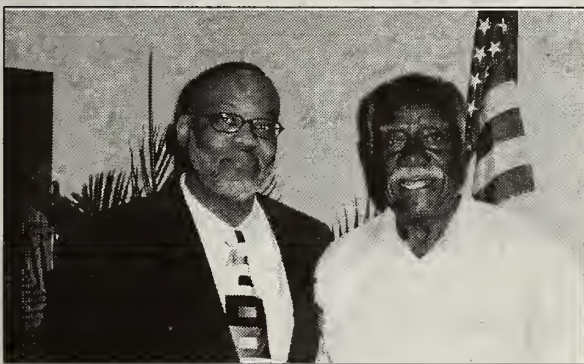
Dr. Charles T. Bullock, President GBSC



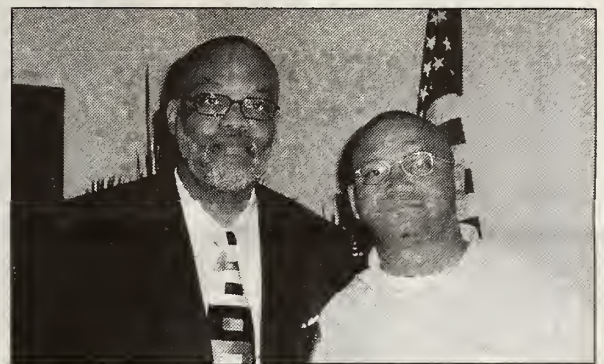
Chairman Smith with Supt. George Currie & Rev. Michael Pope



Chairman & Mrs. Smith with Dr. Clifton E. Bell, Jr.



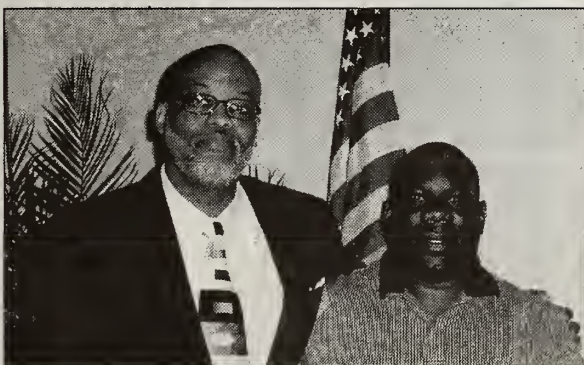
Chairman Smith with Leonard Shadding



Chairman Smith with Rev. Carl Millner



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Chairman Smith with C.V. Barnette



Rev. Wavey Williams, A.R.M.Y. of Christ Ministries



Chairman Smith with son Joel

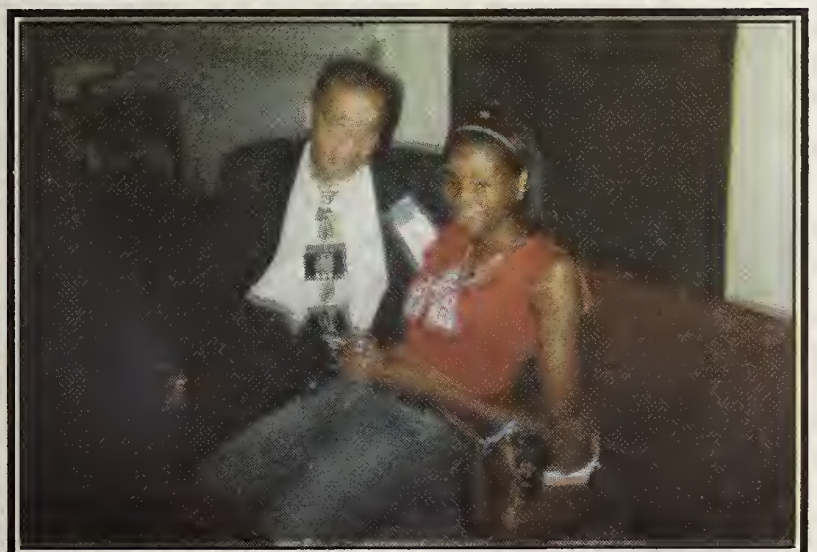
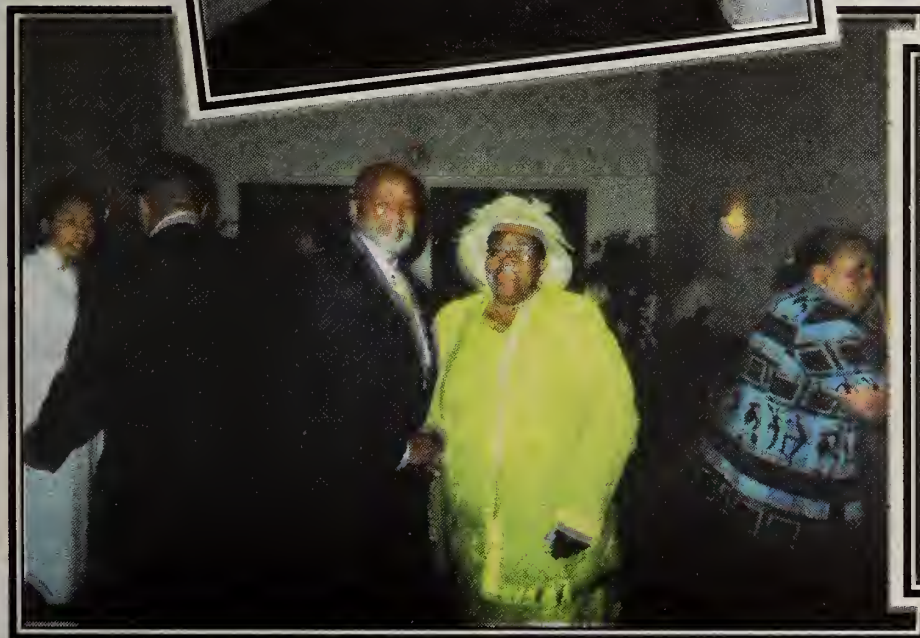
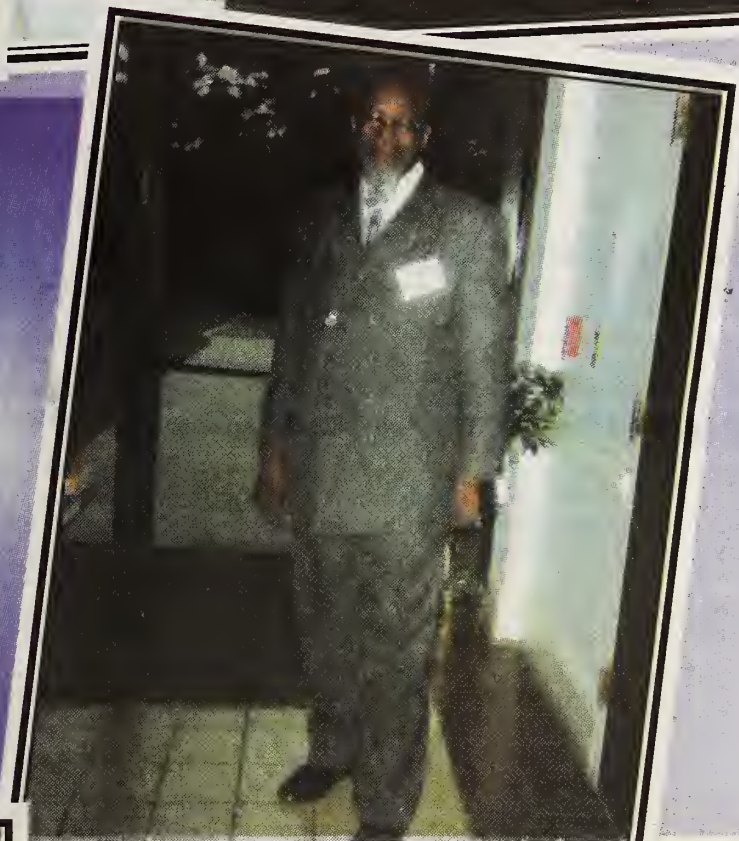
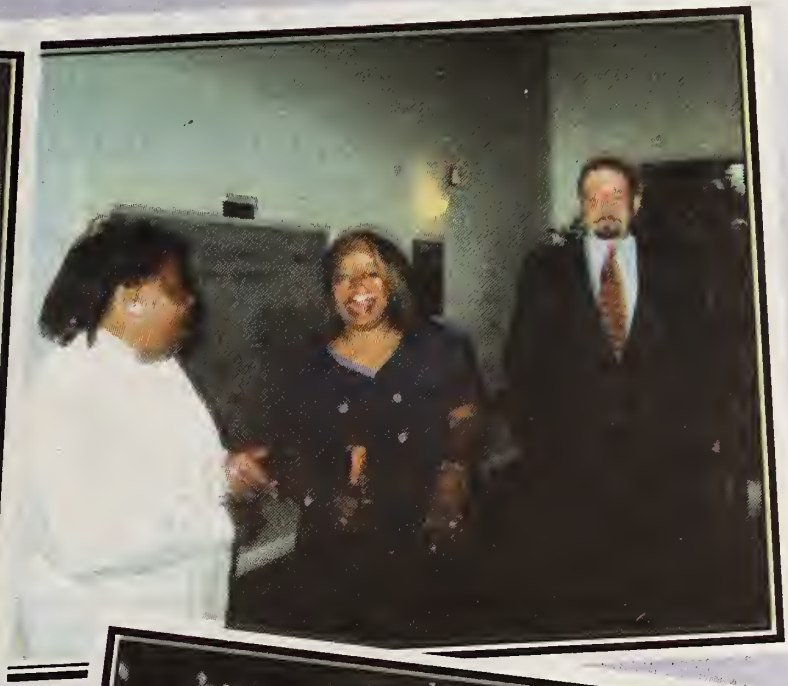


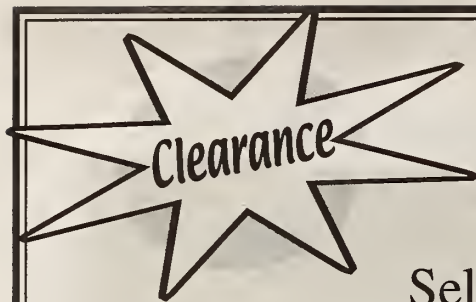
Chairman & Mrs. Smith with Chester Davis of WCLY-1550am



Chairman Smith with Rev. William McCoy







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Baptist Beliefs	9.50	Journey Through The Covenant	15.00	Taking Discipleship Serious	5.00
Becoming A Woman of Influence	10.00	Jubilee Bible	40.00	Teaching Adults	10.00
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Church Administration In The Black Perspective	15.00	Ministers Special Occasions	12.00	The Church And Music	10.00
Contemporary New Testament	5.00	Ministers Star Book	12.00	The Complete Works of Prayer	10.00
Dakes Bible	97.99	Outstanding Black Sermon	12.00	The Five Love Languages	5.00
Dakes Bible	89.99	Overcoming Racism	17.00	The Holy Spirit	15.00
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Introducing New Authors...

"Women at the Well" ~ T. K. Jordan

"Out of Death Came Life" ~ Barbara Monro

"It's All Good: When Lessons Lead to Blessings" ~ Dr. Debbie A. Strickland-Bullock

"Edifying Experiences" ~ Patricia W. Brower

"A Mustard Seed" ~ Evelyn C. McLean

"A Journey Through the Church Covenant: Discipleship for African American Christians" ~ William C. Turner, Jr.

"First Things First: Tithing, Giving & Stewardship in the Local Church" ~ D. S. Briggs

"An Introduction to New Testament Theology" ~ Dr. Benjamin Hinton, D. Min.

• Video: Learn How to Play Gospel Music, Volumes 1 & 2



Book Of The Month

"How to Speak Alien: Invading Your Teens World Without Invading Their Space"

By Michael Ross, of Focus on the Family

FEMA kicks off public safety campaign to reduce fire deaths

The Department of Homeland

Carol J.
Smith

Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has announced a campaign to raise awareness about the increased risk of fire death for young children, and to teach parents and

caregivers how they can avoid the tragedy. The campaign's message emphasized installing smoke alarms, securing lighters and matches, and developing a fire evacuation plan under the theme:

“Prepare. Practice. Prevent the Unthinkable”.

“A baby or toddler under age five dies nearly every day in a residential fire,” said Homeland Security Under Secretary Michael D. Brown. “These young children have a disproportionately higher risk of fire death than the rest of the population. They depend on their parents and caregivers to keep them safe, to prevent residential fires from starting, and to increase the chances that the entire family can escape a fire quickly and safely.”

From 1989 through 1998, U.S. children younger than age five were twice as likely as the rest of the population to die in a residential fire; in that decade 5,712 children died in fires in this country, according to the U.S. Fire Administration, part of FEMA and the initiator of the campaign.

"No child – not a single one – should suffer such an awful death, a death that can be prevented by parents who take the

necessary precautions,” said Fire Administrator R. David Paulison. “Every parent and every caregiver with young children depending on them must take a few simple but important steps to prevent this tragedy. Even toddlers can be taught how to quickly respond in case of fire and adults need to know how they will escape with infants.”

The Fire Safety Campaign for Babies and Toddlers includes four national partner organizations that have pledged to spread the message to parents and caregivers, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, National SAFE KIDS Campaign, the NFPA (National Fire Protection Association), and ZERO TO THREE.

The campaign materials include a print public service announcement, an educational video on fire safety for babies and toddlers, posters, brochures and fact sheets. The media, parents and caregivers can access the information, in both English and Spanish, at www.usfa-

parents.gov or can order materials through the U.S. Fire Administration's Publications Online Catalog, at www.usfa.fema.gov/applications/publications/.

The U.S. Fire Administration has a mission to reduce life and economic losses due to fire and related emergencies through leadership, advocacy, coordination and support. It is the federal leader in public fire education and awareness, fire service training, fire-related technology and data collection.

On March 1, 2003, FEMA became part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. FEMA's continuing mission within the new department is to lead the effort to prepare the nation for all hazards and effectively manage federal response and recovery efforts following any national incident. FEMA also initiates proactive mitigation activities, trains first responders, and manages Citizen Corps, the National Flood Insurance Program and the U.S. Fire Administration. ■

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How to cope when debt collectors start calling

By Attorney General Roy Cooper

Most consumers dread the idea of falling behind on their bills, and a downturn in the economy is causing this to happen more and more. And if you've ever had trouble paying your bills and had your accounts turned over to a debt collector, you're not alone. Consumers regularly call my Consumer Protection office with stories about how they were treated by a collection agency or how frequently they were contacted about a debt. Last year, concerns with debt collectors were one of the ten most common complaints we heard from North Carolina consumers.

A debt collector is any person who regularly collects debts owed to others. Debt collectors may contact you in person, by mail, telephone, or fax about bills you owe. It's important to pay what you owe on time, and a careful budget can help you do that. However, debt collectors must follow the rules that protect you against abusive debt collection practices. In North Carolina, these laws apply to creditors collecting their own debts as well as third party debt collectors.

Debt collectors may not:

- Harass you, use profane language or threaten you with violence

- Tell you that you will be arrested if you do not pay your debts
- Pretend to be attorneys or government representatives
- Tell your employer or others about your debts
- Deposit a post-dated check early
- Pretend that they are contacting you for other reasons than debt collection
- Contact you before 8 a.m. or after 9 p.m. unless you agree

Debt collectors are allowed to contact you:

- **At home**, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 9 p.m.
- **At work**. It is legal for debt collectors to contact you on the job unless they have a telephone number to reach you during non-working hours. Debt collectors must also stop calling you at work if they know that your employer disapproves of their calls.
- **Through people who know you**. If they are unable to find you, debt collectors may attempt to contact other people who know you, such as neighbors, relatives, friends and employers. When a collection agency contacts people you know, they are not allowed to say why they are trying to contact you or how much you owe.

To stop a collection agency from try-

ing to contact you at home or at work, put your request in writing. Send a letter by certified mail telling the debt collector to cease phone contact with you both at your home and your place of work. Be sure to keep a copy of the letter for your records. Once they get your letter, they may not contact you again except to tell you that a creditor intends to take some specific action on your account.

It's important to note that sending such a letter will not make your debts disappear. If you are having trouble covering your debts, you should contact your creditors as soon as possible to work out

a payment plan. You can also set up an appointment with a non-profit consumer credit counseling service to develop a strategy to fix your financial troubles, but make sure you select this service carefully and call to check out your choice.

Attorney General Roy Cooper and his staff are working to educate consumers and protect them from scams. We are here to be of service when you need us at (919) 716-6000, but through consumer education efforts like these columns we hope to help consumers avoid problems from the start.

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"Busy Building To Serve The Present Age"

The General Baptist State Convention is looking for individuals or churches to donate materials necessary to better organize the space that is available at Baptist Headquarters. We are in the process of building shelves and storage units to better organize our financial and archived information. This is necessary because as the Convention grows, we find we are requiring more storage area.

The Laymen's League of First Baptist Church in Raleigh (Dr. Dumas A. Harshaw, Jr., Pastor) have generously volunteered their time with this project.

We are looking for the following items to be donated:

Lumber: 1/2 inch plywood, 2x4's, 2x2's, 1x4's, 2x10's, and Nails

For more information, please contact Headquarters at:

(919) 821-7466 or Toll-Free: (800) 639-4272

You may also fax a list of the items you can donate to:

(919) 836-0061

(Please include all contact information)

Lewis Chapel to Host Women's Conference

Using the theme "Women Empowering Women Through Prayer, Praise and Purpose", the Women's Ministry of Lewis Chapel Missionary Baptist Church will host its Women's Conference. This uplifting event, to be held at the church, will begin on Friday, September 26, 2003 with a "Meet and Greet Reception" at 6:00 p.m. Following a brief inspiration period on

Saturday morning, September 27, women from this church and visitors will disperse to various workshops of their choice. Some workshops will allow attendees to reflect on their personal relationship with God and the Christian community, while others will provide strategies for dealing with health, families and the unsaved. Pamper Sessions will allow women to relax and be refreshed. Of course, there will be gifts to give away. During the luncheon on Saturday, September 27, a dynamic speaker, Dr. Carolyn Knight, a professor of Homiletics at Morehouse School of Religion, Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC), Atlanta, Georgia, will develop the conference theme and challenge the women to be all that God wants them to be.

Realizing that many women have access to great disposable income and are always researching ways to use it wisely, the pastor, the Rev. John D. Fuller, Sr. and the planning committee thought that the Women's Conference would provide an excellent opportunity to showcase businesses owned or operated by members of Lewis Chapel Missionary Baptist Church.

4th Annual Women's Prayer Retreat

The Ebenezer Baptist Church of Rocky Mount, NC will hold the 4th Annual Women's Prayer Retreat on September 26 - 28, 2003 at the Franklinton Center, Bricks, NC. The theme: Lord Change Me. The retreat will feature workshops, dynamic speakers, dinner banquet and Christian fellowship. Call (252) 442-7802 or (252) 442-6554 for details & registration.

Another Giant Step towards revitalizing Rocky Mount



A local outreach ministry has a new reason to celebrate. Recently, EBC-ATOM (Ebenezer Baptist Church A Total Outreach Ministry) and the Re-Rock Project, unveiled its two newest renovated houses located at 717 and 719 Redgate Avenue in Rocky Mount. About two years ago, ATOM received a donation of 35 houses in need of serious renovation. The houses are repaired to "like new" condition and made available for sale to people with low to moderate income.

The Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and Community Celebration drew dozens of people with some distinguished guests such as City Councilman Attorney Lamont Wiggins; City Councilman Reuben Blackwell; former State Representative Shelly Willingham; Edgecombe County Manager Lorenzo Carmon; City Councilwoman Chris Miller; City Councilwoman Helen Gay; and Dr. Thomas Walker, EBC-ATOM Chairman.

The theme for the day was restoring Rocky Mount for all people in the community. Panel guests encouraged politicians, clergy, citizens and organizations to work together to improve Rocky Mount and push the theme "City on the Rise". "Partnered with the master carpenter (Pastor Garland Jones) ... he brought the

vision of what can really happen when you look at something that's dilapidated and don't see what you see today, but see the vision of the future and I hope that these houses are just exemplary of what we can do in Rocky Mount ... and instead of looking at what the devastation is, we need to look at what we can make it to be in the future for all of us, a positive thing," said Blackwell.

The ceremony ended with comments from the master carpenter (in charge of the renovation of the houses), Rev. Garland Jones, Mount Zion Christian Church. Jones stated, "We can change Rocky Mount if we really make a decisive decision and come up with a plan that will incorporate everyone ... the people that live in these communities deserve to live better."

Re-Rock stands for Revitalizing Rocky Mount and several groups are in collaboration with EBC-ATOM on Re-Rock effort including Opportunities Industrialization Center of Rocky Mount, Mount Zion Christian Church, City of Rocky Mount and connectinc. (work central). Unlike other ATOM houses at the time of completion, these latest two do not yet have owners and anyone interested in applying should call (252) 212-5480 or go to www.ebenezerbaptist.org/atom.

The Nehemiah Prayer Chain

of the
Woman's Baptist Home &
Foreign Missionary Convention
North Carolina, Auxiliary to GBSC



Enlistment Form

The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord; but the prayer of the upright is his delight. (Proverbs 15:8)

Confess your faults to one another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. (James 5:16)

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Taking the "SENIOR" out of "SENIOR PASTOR"

By L. A. Batchelor
as appeared in the AC Phoenix

For centuries many of the world's distinguished philosophers have assaulted Christianity as being irrational, superstitious and absurd. Many have chosen simply to ignore the central issue of the resurrection. Others have tried to explain it away through various theories. But the historical evidence just can't be discounted.

I share these thoughts with you because the joy of joining our Lord and Savior can be a tragedy for those who don't believe in God but a blessing for Christians. I also mention this because when the late Pastor Thornton died when his car was rear-ended by a tractor-trailer on Interstate 40 in Greensboro, Dr. Thornton was taken to Moses Cone Hospital where he was listed in critical condition and later passed away on Sunday, October 21st, 2002. Most were saddened by it because he was young, full of life and was no question, the strength and spiritual leader of Phillips Chapel Missionary Baptist Church. He was a native of Cascade, Virginia and was the Pastor of River Zion Missionary Baptist Church of Blanch, North Carolina for seven (7) years before taking the position as Senior Pastor at Phillips Chapel Missionary Baptist Church. In the short time he was Senior Pastor at "THE CHAPEL" (as it's called), he took them to new heights and growth of "leaps and bounds" and to a better relationship with God and the community. His funeral was filled with those he knew, touched and those that respected and loved him. There were some tears of sorrow but as Christians here and abroad realize, he is in a place we all as Christians strive daily to be after we pass on ... With our Heavenly Father. There was one other person in the car with the late Dr. Thornton on that fatal day and it was his Minister of Music (at the time) Lamont J. Johnson. Reverend Johnson was also taken to Moses Cone Hospital where he was treated for an injury to his shoulder and a concussion. He was later released. Whatever happened to him? Well "Minister of Music" Johnson is now "Senior Pastor" Johnson. On Sunday, June 22nd, he was newly installed as Senior Pastor of Phillips Chapel Missionary Baptist Church in Winston-Salem. Which actually coincided with the late Dr. Thornton's installation. Reverend Johnson has two distinctions that make his appointment unique: He is only 24 years old which is extremely young to be a Senior Pastor and he takes over the same church his Pastor and mentor, the late Rev. Dr. Thornton was the Pastor of for such a short but very explosive and

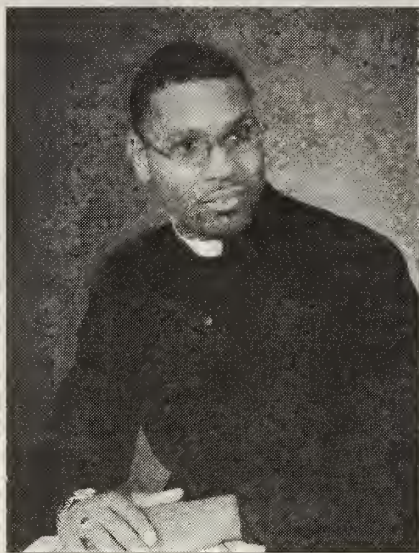
exciting time.

Born on March 30th, 1979 in Orange, New Jersey to Reverend Bill and Ruth Johnson, Reverend Johnson is the youngest of seven children. Reverend

Johnson said he always felt joy when it came to church and he knew he was destined to do God's work.

"I knew at the tender age of five (5) that my purpose in life was to lead God's people as a pastor," he said. He continued this mentality, spirit and heart as he grew and at the age of 14, preached his first official sermon. He was then licensed to preach the Gospel by the St. Paul's Baptist Church of Elizabeth, New Jersey where his father has been the under-shepherd for over 23 years. He has made his father very proud. "I knew that the anointing and the call was on his life from long ago, probably in grammar school," his father said. "He is just following what God has called him to do." Reverend Johnson has been blessed in many areas in his life. He is indeed a preacher, teacher, musician (organ/piano), singer, songwriter and lyricist. He has been blessed to travel the country as a member of the N.A.A.C.P. as he excelled in the areas of drama, classical vocal and oratory. While in New Jersey he was an active member of the New Jersey Opera Association as a lead baritone.

Reverend Johnson, the youngest senior pastor in the church's 62-year history, was very pleased although his age was an issue for some members (but not the committee members), the church decided not to make his age an issue in their decision to make him the successor for the late Dr. Thornton. "I am so excited that the church stepped out of the confinement of the norm and really stepped out on faith," he said. "He has everything that is required to be the senior pastor for this church," said Ernie Wade, a longtime member of the church and chaired the selection committee for the new pastor. "I think this church will grow right along with him," he also said. When asked if it was pressure to fill the shoes of the late Dr. Thornton (Dr. Thornton was the person who invited Reverend Johnson to become the Minister of Music at "THE CHAPEL"), he said, "I do believe that I am standing on his shoulders, but I am not filling his shoes. God has given me my own shoes." Reverend Johnson has



Pastor Lamont J. Johnson

fond memories and love for his mentor who was also his God-Father. He talked about all the aspirations, dreams and plans that the late Dr. Thornton had for the church. Reverend Johnson has been

welcomed not only by the Phillips Chapel congregation, but the community and surrounding Pastors. He will soon be moving into the newly renovated Kimberly Park Terrace and has established a relationship with Pastors in the area. "They have reached their arms out to me, and it's awesome," he said.

In 2001, Reverend Johnson satisfied his undergraduate hunger at the great historical Virginia Union University in Richmond, Virginia. While at VUU, he served as the pianist for the weekly chapel service, President of the German club and President of the Concert Choir. He is a featured soloist on V.U.U.'s Concert Choir's live recording. He has done graduate studies at Richmond Virginia Seminary and Strayer University in Charlotte, North Carolina where he studied Organization and Management. He

will be continuing graduate studies at Shaw University. Reverend Johnson has been very devoted to ministry serving as Youth Pastor for St. Paul Baptist Church, Elizabeth, New Jersey; Minister of Music for Friendship Baptist Church, Rahway, New Jersey; Youth Pastorate Intern at Calvary Baptist Church, Orange, New Jersey; and Minister of Music of Gravel Hill Baptist Church, Smithfield, Virginia. Besides his father's ministry, his longest stay (and the church he calls home) was at Ebenezer Baptist Church, Supply, Virginia where Reverend Johnson became longtime friends with the late Dr. Thornton. He also sits as a member of the Board of Trustees for Project Community (a non-profit organization) and is the newly appointed Assistant Chairman of Youth Evangelism of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

Reverend Johnson is the loving husband of the former Andrea Nicole Revell who happens to also be his best friend and the love of his life.

Reverend Johnson is the 10th Pastor of Phillips Chapel Missionary Baptist Church. Let's all applaud Reverend Lamont J. Johnson for his newly appointed position as Senior Pastor of "THE CHAPEL". Let's applaud equally as loud for Phillips Chapel Missionary Baptist Church for their liberalism, vision, courage, growth and spirit to realize you don't have to be "A SENIOR" to be "A SENIOR PASTOR".



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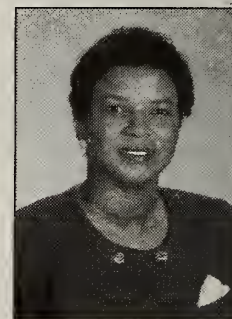
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30th Pastoral Anniversary

This year marks the Thirtieth Anniversary of our Pastor, Dr. John D. Fuller, Sr. The celebration begins with a banquet on Saturday, September 20, 2003 at the Crown Coliseum and culminates with all day services on Sunday, October 19, 2003. We are truly grateful that the Lord sent our Pastor this way.

John D. Fuller, Sr., the son of the late Deacon Leon and Mrs. Pearl Mae Fuller, was born May 22, 1946 in a "shotgun house" in Thomson, Georgia. John has three brothers and five sisters. The Fuller family sharecropped on 40 acres of land in the Brier Creek Community of Thomson, Georgia. He appreciated the fact that though they were poor and struggling, they were a proud family.

He received his early education in the McDuffie County School System, Thomson, Georgia and graduated from R. L. Norris High School in 1965. Despite the many hardships, typical of a sharecropper's family, he was an honor student.

During the early years of 1973, Rev.

Fuller was approached by a small committee from Lewis Chapel Missionary Baptist Church to discuss the possibility of his becoming their pastor. He often visited the grounds of Lewis Chapel Church, and it was during the early part of the summer that he went to the back of the small building and knelt down on his knees and sincerely, John asked God for wisdom. Accordingly, he prayed this prayer:

"Lord, if you, indeed, want me to pastor this church, give me a ministry for those who are

not presently here, but for those who could come to Lewis Chapel."

Eleven months after Rev. Fuller's arrival at Lewis Chapel, groundbreaking ceremonies were held for the new facility. In late November of 1974, the Church began construction of a new church building. Such construction was completed through his skillful leadership in seven months. Through God's blessings and Rev. Fuller's leadership, our physical facilities were greatly improved.



Rev. Dr. John D. Fuller, Sr.

Numerous ministries and new auxiliaries had their beginning during this period.

Expansion of the Lewis Chapel Baptist Church facility continued with groundbreaking ceremonies being held in September 1980 for the addition of an education wing. The Olen Gerald Learning Center, named in honor of Deacon Olen Gerald, was formally dedicated on August 8, 1981. The growth was not just tremendous in the numerical and physical sense, but the spiritual realm. His charisma and enthusiasm for the work of God brought about the formation of an 8:30 a.m. "Early Informal Worship Service", the first in Cumberland County. Each year, the church gained more than 150 members. Currently, there are four Worship Services, 7:15 a.m., 8:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

Among his many leadership roles beyond the local church, Rev. Fuller has served as Moderator of the Union Baptist

Association, which encompasses fifty (50) churches. He has held the office of 4th Vice President of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, the Vice President-at-Large, as well as Vice Chairman of the General Board, and Secretary for the Lott Carey Foreign Missionary Convention. He is the Immediate Past President of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc. He currently serves on the Shaw University Board of Trustees and he is a member of the Morehouse School of Religion Board of Directors. He was appointed by North Carolina's Governor James B. Hunt as Vice Chairperson of the Task Force on Racial and Religious Violence. Locally, he serves as a member of the Board of Directors for the Cumberland County Community Action Financial Counseling Service, Fayetteville State University Alumni Association and a Life Member of the NAACP.

Prostate Cancer Awareness Month

Rev. Thomas L. Walker celebrates seven years since being cured of prostate cancer. Celebrating seven years has a lot of significance. His non-invasive treatment through radiation seeding (Brachytherapy) was not only a cure, but he has experienced little or no side effects as a result. Walker gives God the glory for his early detection and cure.

Since his diagnosis eight years ago, he has been doing everything to tell his story including speaking at workshops, doing television and radio interviews and magazine articles. He's even written a book title Brother to Brother, You Don't Have to Die with Prostate Cancer and recorded a song encouraging men to pursue early detection of prostate cancer through visits to their urologist. The song, "A Word About Prostate Cancer", is part of his newest album recorded with his son, Rev. Dr. Timothy Walker and it is

appropriately called, Father and Son. You may remember Walker from his earlier gold recording, "One Day At A Time".

Walker's phone rings continuously with men calling him anxious and fearful about their diagnosis of prostate cancer or the idea of getting the exam. In many cases, at the close of the conversation, the men are feeling much better about their situation and have the confidence to move



Rev. Thomas L. Walker

forward without fear. While he values the individual, one on one contact, it is humanly impossible to reach as many men as he would like to in this manner.

At this point, he is pulling out all stops to bring awareness to the disease

by building partnerships with media, support groups and all those engaged in the fight against prostate cancer. This comes just in time since September is National Prostate Cancer

Awareness month. Another project Walker has taken on is the annual free Prostate Cancer Awareness Workshop and Screening. This is the 4th consecutive year and plans are underway now for this year's event.

For more information or to join in this effort, contact:
**BROTHER TO BROTHER
National Prostate Cancer
Campaign, 652 Raleigh Road,
Rocky Mount, NC 27803 or
Ken Savage, coordinator
at (252) 442-7241.**

30th PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

July 2, 2003

*We've come up the road
With oft' a heavy load.
Trials on every hand
From a meek and humble land.
We will not boast
For the thing that we know most
The Lord has brought us through....*

We stand on the threshold of an awesome note-worthy celebration commemorating the 30th year of pastoral service for Dr. John D. Fuller Sr., Pastor of Lewis Chapel Baptist Church and the Immediate Past President of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc.

Dr. Fuller will be honored with an Appreciation Banquet on Saturday, September 20, 2003 in the Crown Coliseum, Fayetteville, North Carolina at 6:00 p.m.

The Reverend Dr. Thurman B. Everett, Housing Chairperson of the General Baptist State Convention and Pastor of Bryant Swamp Baptist Church, Bladenboro, North Carolina will be the Banquet Speaker.

Tickets are available from 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Monday - Friday in the Church Office, 5422 Raeford Road, (910) 424-2344. Adult tickets are \$30.00 and a child's plate (12 and under) is \$15.00. Checks or money orders should be made payable to Lewis Chapel Baptist Church.

On behalf of the celebrant, the Lewis Chapel Baptist Church invites your family to share with our family at this very significant occasion honoring "Our Shepherd".

For additional information please contact Ms. Lorraine Williams at the above telephone or by email, lwiliams@lewischapel.org.

RURAL AFRICAN AMERICAN CHURCH

By Reverend D. S. Briggs

Last month we stated that both the servant of God that has been given not just the title but the task to serve the Lord as a Pastor, as well as the Church which God has planted by His mighty hand must remember our callings to be agents of Christ. We must remember that not only has the Lord called the Pastors to serve, the Lord has also called His Church to serve this present age. "And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding." Jeremiah 3:15; "Upon this rock I will build my Church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." (St. Matthew 16:18.) There is no greater calling than to be called by God to serve His people. Both the church and the clergy must keep this at the forefront of our mission. This does not change because of the size of our congregation or our physical location. We exist to serve Christ! That is our "raison de etre" ... our reason for existing. These words of Peter once fully and faithfully embraced by both pew and pulpit ought to excite and empower us towards fruitful and faithful ministry together.

If we can not with clarity and conviction state that the Lord has called us to be His servant, it is He who has sent us forth to pastor; and in particular to pastor the church we currently serve, then we need to immediately ask God where we should be and what we should be doing. If that means we need to submit our resignation immediately with no place to go, then it is better to be without a pastorate and in the will of God, than to be in the pastorate and out of God's will. If we are out of place we will only make things worse for ourselves and potentially for others that follow us because they think we know where we are going, what we are doing, and enjoying the trip. When in reality at many times we do not even know if we are supposed to be there in the first place!

This in no shape, form, or fashion means that one should cut bait and run simply because of conflict in the church. Suffering and servant leadership go together. Paul says in Philippians 3:10 "that I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto His death." "Suffering," Paul says again, "produces perseverance and perseverance character, and character hope, and hope does not disappoint" (Romans 5:3-4 NIV). Our calling does not cancel conflict, beloved, but rather our calling often causes conflict. For we are waged in a spiritual battle with unseen forces in the midst of the air. We are literally preaching for, praying for, standing in the gap for, believing God for men's and women's souls. If this will not cause conflict between the adversary and you, tell me

what will? The accuser of the brethren is a master at manipulating men and women to raise conflict in your life and the life of the church. The conflict then serves as a distraction to deter you from what the Divine has delivered unto you.

Churches must remember what Christ has

called them to be. The church of today has been driven to tolerance instead of obedience.

Challenge nothing, change nothing, correct nothing ... just leave it be and tolerate it. We say ... If it does not bother me why does it bother you, when what we should be asking is if it is wrong and bothers God then why does it not bother us? Robert Lewis writes in his book *The Church of Irresistible Influence*, "In many contemporary churches, believers no longer carry Bibles. Worshippers seek and experience with God minus the commitment. Therapy replaces morality. Entertainment crowds out the cross. Is it maturity we're after or the feel good?" Our focus as a church must be to point men and women to Jesus Christ who is the author and finisher of our faith. (Hebrews 12:2.) To build up and to mature men and women in our most holy faith must be our goal. Jesus said that we are the salt of the earth. He said that we are the light of the world. He said that we are the city on a hill that can not be hid. He said we are the pillar and the ground of truth. He said that He has built us upon a rock and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against us. Since we are called to be a church of God then we should focus on being a church of God and not a club for man. It is not in what we do to please self; it is what we do to please the Savior that counts.

Unfortunately most of what we do in our churches is tainted with the corrosive, condescending stench of selfishness. Our agenda have become more important than the Almighty's. What we want takes center stage in our worship experience, committees and circles, board meetings, and our conference meetings, yet rarely is the question honestly raised "What would the Lord have us to do?" Rarely do we pray "till the power of the Lord comes down." Rarely do we wait for His answer. We make decisions on a "feeling" and not faith. Then we have nerve to ask God to bless what we have done without His permission, and get mad when the mess blows up and it is well evident to everybody that God has not blessed it. We are at fault, but we blame God for not fixing it. But God never does by miracle what He requires us to do by obedience.

These issues only seem to escalate and appear to be more visible in the Rural African American Church because we are a unique breed of church. These prob-

lems are everywhere! The familiar nature of the Rural church often dictates that those placed into positions are not always the most qualified, but rather those that are members of the right family. This both perplexes and perturbs us as

contemporary administrators of the church, trying to move the church forward when it seems intent to only go (and grow) backwards.

We must realize that the traits of what we call selfishness today are in reality issues of self-reliance and determination initially deployed and developed when many of these churches were founded. The itinerant nature of the Pastor played a major role in the development of this self-reliance. Since the Pastor was only in town on "meeting Sunday" they had to look to each other during the times of the Pastor's absence. The administrative task of holding the church together through crisis and controversy usually fell to the Chairman of the Deacon Board. For many years they have (in their own mind) held the church together, so who are we to tell them they were wrong and out of order? Who are we to say that we (pastors) are the ones in charge, when they have seen the administration of a plethora of pastors come and go? (I will talk about this in a later article, the Lord willing.) If these things were/are a part of the church's foundation, then it is no wonder these spirits, attitudes and perceptions still remain to this day.

C. Eric Lincoln writes, "Their religion was the peculiar sustaining force that gave them strength to endure when endurance gave no promise, and the courage to be creative in the face of their own dehumanization." Note his words carefully ... "to endure when endurance gave no promise." This was surely a good thing, for many of our Rural African American churches have been in existence for 100 years or more. They kept it all together even when everything pointed towards their failure and destruction. Whether they have done things biblically, theologically, culturally, or morally right or wrong they continue to exist. In spite of problems, fights, fires, floods, falling out, falling away, splits, migration, depression, and recession they still exist. Therefore God must ultimately have a plan in store for them and we that serve them.

Sadly, that which was once their strength has now too often degenerated into a burden. That which once pulled us together and held us together now pulls us apart. The devil has corrupted what God has created within us. Now everyone wants their own way regardless to whether it is right or wrong, and nobody

else is right except them. Both pastor and people are guilty of selfishness at times. These family founded churches have relied on self for so many years to get out of so many situations that it is difficult to change horses mid-stream, as it were. We as pastors are tired of pulling our hair out over stuff that makes no sense to us, yet is deeply and richly embedded in the church's sense of identity. Remove it or change it at your own peril.

So how do we give due diligence as Peter writes when it seems like the church we serve does not want what we have to offer? How can we make our calling and election sure if everyone (it seems) in the church is taking potshots at the Vision? How when they do not want to do anything I suggest, but at the same time they won't suggest anything themselves? How can I/we be successful in a ministry that not only looks and feels like Family Feud, they actually enjoy it? How when it seems like conflict and controversy are a drug fix that they must have? How can I be faithful and fruitful in this type of ministry? How can I hold on where I am and still be productive and positive about being a pastor?

If you are sure of your calling, then the next thing we would say is to **learn the story of the church you serve**. Read copious amounts of history, minutes, newspaper accounts, Association and Convention accounts of church participation, whatever you can about your church and its history. Learn not only about the nature of the church but the name as well. Why is the church called what it is called? Such information became invaluable to me many years ago during a church conflict. I was able to connect the dots only because I knew about a name change to the church that the majority of church members had absolutely no knowledge of, as it was never read during church anniversary. Listen to what is being said, as well as to what is not said. Invest into yourself by purchasing books that deal with the type of ministry that you are in, as well as those you would like to see implemented at some point during your ministry. Some of the things we purchase now and prepare now are not for where we currently serve but for where we will one day serve. Sit down and listen to those that have been successful in rural church ministry. Meet with (if at all possible) the former pastors not only as a courtesy (for you stand on their shoulders, regardless to how square or slumped they were) but to understand, from their unique perspective, the church you have been called and placed to serve. At no times, become judgmental in this process ... accept everything with the proverbial grain of salt ... just learn all you can. Bathe everything in prayer and meditation before the Lord. At no time

RURAL AFRICAN, cont. page 42

Many people today wear watches that are made with the quartz movement. The quartz watch represents a technological



Keith
Curry

breakthrough. The Swiss invented the quartz movement, and when their research scientists presented it to the watchmakers they rejected the concept. It did not have a main spring, or gears, and no one

believed it could be the watch of the future. They were so confident that it would not be the watch of the future that no one patented the technology. The following year they presented this watch at the world conference. Texas Instruments, and Seiko of Japan took one look at this watch and the rest is history. The Swiss were blinded by the success of old technology and all of their investments in it. So when confronted with a new and different way to continue success they totally rejected it. It did not fit into the rules that they were already good at following. Not even the best watchmakers in the world could stop time. While the people of God retool or prepare ourselves to be more effective in ministry specifically youth ministry, our prayer should be to look for ways to be more effective through new paradigms. The question to consider is why new paradigms are needed in the church today? What has changed in the context of youth ministry today that has found us lacking in addressing teenagers? To answer these questions one must learn more about how the male youth of today view the world and the church. The people of the church must understand that today we live in an era called post-modern. Between 1960 and 1990 postmodernism emerged as a cultural phenomenon which focused on the production of information.¹

As a result these youth are part of a group called the Millennium generation or generation Y. These are youth who were born from 1982 to the present. This generation has been defined as having a pulse that runs fast. They are bombarded by frequent images, and are in need of continual information. The remote control symbolizes their reality: change is constant; focus is fragmented. They've eaten from the tree of knowledge. They live for now and are jaded, having a "Been there/Done that" attitude, nothing shocking them. They take consumerism for granted. They are an internet virtual community. They process information in narrative images (like Nike commercials). They've had everything handed to them.² An example of this new way of thinking is described in the book by Jimmy Long called "Generating Hope." A student explains his

struggles with homosexuality. He understands the difference between right and wrong but believes he would do the right thing. He felt that he could do the right thing by himself. Long suggest this student is already living in the postmodern era and community influence is strong in his life. The student is being pulled by both the Christian community and the gay campus community. This student eventually becomes more involved in the gay community. He tries to deal with the problem alone instead of relying on the Christian community for help. "Right or wrong is not the issue, but the pull of two conflicting communities that is the central battle ground for this student." Long also asserts that the Millennium teenager does not trust adults. The lack of trust in adults comes from the breakdowns in the society. The divorce rate is high in society and celebrities speak on television of their willingness to live together rather than marrying for love. These teenagers receive conflicting signals from adults on a daily basis. The Millennial, in one sense, have good reason not to "trust" adults.³ The above statement concerning trust in adults is alarming when the scriptures are examined.

In Deuteronomy 6:2-9 the writer gives what amounts to a sermon in the passage: "Now these are the commandments" says verse one as the people of Israel are about to cross into the land and occupy it. "They should live in the continual practice of the law; for by this they were to be distinguished from all the nations of the world, and all these were to be in force till the Son of God should come. Respect his sovereign authority as a lawgiver, and ever feel one bound to obey him."⁴ "No man can walk either conscientiously or safely who has not the fear of God continually before his eyes." When this fear is gone, more than a guardian angel is fled from our lives. The question is whether or not our male teenagers fear God. This commandment repeats the need for a plan of action that plants a seed of faith in these male teens.

The writer says that you and your son and your grandson might fear the Lord your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged.⁵ "Whoever fears God will endeavor to bring up his or her children in the way of righteousness, that they also may fear God, and that the pure and undefiled religion may be preserved in his family through all its generations, not only in word, but also in practice." Therefore, youth must understand that the fear of God is the beginning of joy, peace and fulfillment in life. As the problems mentioned above enter into our life, saints

are able to understand that the teachings of Jesus will allow the family to discern the will of God. The Millennium generation may view the world differently but God has ordained that adults must teach the youth in the home. The church should serve as a support system to the parent or parents. Other elements in the way God's people determine what is pleasing in the sight of God include rationality and frame of reference.

The principle of rationality is based on the assumption that truth makes more sense than error. Some people are uncomfortable with the notion that reason must be used in judging theological truth because of our cultural conditioning. God gives us a mind to think and this writer believes it is more dangerous not to think. Theological thinking is not a matter of judging truth, but recognizing it in the midst of conflicting claims. Openness to new understanding of truth and a creative vision are necessary to do theology. John Lock is right when he states his belief:

"When men have found some general propositions that could not be doubted of as soon as understood, it was, I know, a short and easy way to conclude them innate. This being once received, it eased the lazy from the pains of search, and stopped the inquiry of the doubtful, concerning all that was once styled innate; and it was of no small advantage to those who affected to be masters and teachers, to make this the principle of principles, that principles must not be questioned; for, having once established this tenet, that there are innate principles, it put their followers upon a necessity of receiving some doctrines as such; which was to take them off from the use of their own reason and judgment, and put them upon believing and taking them upon trust without further examination."⁶

How simply and beautifully Jesus cuts through legalism to remind us that our do's and don'ts must be measured against simple, basic principles. God desires mercy, not simply sacrifice (i.e., ritual observance). Thus, it is always "lawful" to do what is good, and like Jesus Himself, to have compassion. This approach can be used in all areas of kingdom building of youth. Situations must be evaluated instead of being condemned from our presuppositions of scripture. This type of thinking is absolutely necessary in this post-modern world today.

A frame of reference is necessary for the interpretation of faith to be effective in this vision of influencing youth attitudes. There should be three fundamental concerns that support one another in a creative spiritual and theological cooperation. Our thinking about our religious practice and belief should be a three-cor-

nered conversation. This should include the Christian gospel, cultural context, and Baptist heritage that are the foundation of our theological identity. The Baptist experience, practice, and belief constitute a particular way of understanding how God loves the male and female creations so much that Jesus is sent to redeem every human creation. The character of God is love, which always exists everywhere enhancing the experience of God's created reality. This love allows people to see the calm in a storm and peace in a turbulent and highly charged situation. The gospel should be proclaimed through preaching, personal witness, and the use of a variety of media that should be the center of church activities.⁷

Recently, I tested a hypothesis of whether or not a mentoring ministry that focuses on male teenagers is a viable approach to change attitudes and increase spiritual development. A project was developed over the course of six weeks using story telling narratives in youth sessions to generate a discussion within the group. The setting was in the basement of my home with everyone assembling around two tables. Sessions were designed to encourage participation in this non-formal setting. The narrative (scripture) was shared in a calm, steady manner with some pauses to focus on key points. These pauses allowed me to ask a question about the characters in the narrative and gain responses. The youth appeared to be shy and non-responsive at the beginning of the first session, but they began to participate with encouragement. Questions from the narrative were structured to relate to their present context. Furthermore, other sessions were designed to end in twenty-five minutes; however, some did last 30 minutes. Immediately following these narratives, the group began to design a web page for Old Smith Grove View Baptist Church located in Lexington, North Carolina.

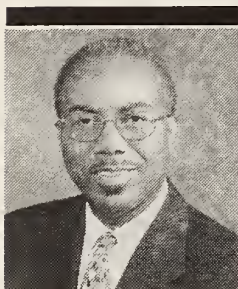
The project was evaluated with a pre-test that contained one question for the youth to answer. The pre-test had 96 adjectives and the youth were asked to circle twelve adjectives that reflect their views of the church. Words such as blessed, spiritual, old-fashioned, and many others were included. After the project ended, the same test was administered to determine the different responses.

The results indicated that new paradigms can trigger spiritual development and create excitement. The youth of today need Christian mentors who are willing to influence attitudes which will lead to spiritual development and transformation. For more information, contact: Reverend

See YOUTH MINISTRY, page 42

“What’s Happening to the Missionary Baptist Church?”

By Dr. James W. Smith



Dr. James W. Smith

Just as it seems I am running out of things to say, something interesting comes to my ear. I was sitting down watching the television, a book in my hand and sleep on my mind when the telephone rang. When I

answered, the voice on the other side said, “Dr. Smith, we have been reading your articles and we just need to talk with you.” “Well, I have no problem talking if you want to come this way because my schedule won’t allow me to come that way anytime soon,” I said. Well, a group of individuals made that trip to Durham and boy, was it an interesting discussion.

The sad thing about this discussion was that these individuals expressed a love, dedication and loyalty for their church, but they were among the minori-

ty in their support of their Pastor. Now before I continue with this, let me first say that some of my best colleagues are in denominations other than Missionary Baptist. As a matter of fact, I have had the opportunity to preach for them and many have preached for me. So this article is not about denominations but about the Missionary Baptist Church.

Well, let me share with you some of the conversation. These members expressed to me that they had been members of the church for many years and really wanted the best for the church but they felt helpless. I asked, “What do you mean by being helpless?” “Dr. Smith, we are just seeing our church move completely away from a Missionary Baptist Church,” they said. I then became very interested in what they were about to say since I had heard that kind of talk coming from many congregations lately. So they continued by telling me that they had selected a new Pastor who had been with them for about two years or less and when he first came, things seemed to be going just fine, but then things changed. Well, I took that to be sour grapes since I have come to realize that most congregations have problems accepting change. But the more I listened, the more I

became intrigued by their conversation. “Tell me what’s going on,” I said. They spilled their guts. “Dr. Smith, he anoints with oil and slay folks every Sunday. He doesn’t invite any Missionary Baptists to preach for any occasions at the church. He has removed all officers and silences members who oppose what he does. His whole emphasis is on the younger members and he has forgotten about the elderly. At conferences, he will not recognize anyone whom he knows or feels is in opposition to him. He even stated from the pulpit that we should pull out of the General Baptist State Convention and stop sending out money and use that money here in the community. Dr. Smith, he’s just got the chairman of the deacons in his pocket because he supports everything he does. Our church is now broke and he seems to want all the money for himself. He has a majority of

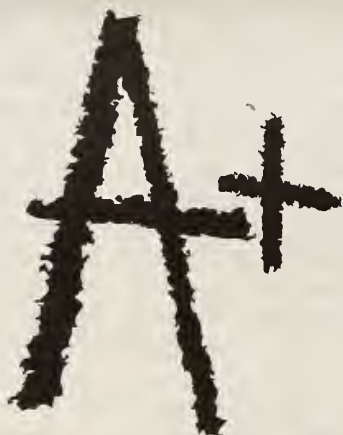
the members, who are younger, supporting him because they like the excitement.” They finally closed by saying to me that they were not use to that kind of church, because their previous Pastor had been with them over thirty years and was a great supporter of the convention and was a traditional Missionary Baptist.

Obviously, I was a good sounding board for them and understood some of their concerns. However, I was unable to help them solve their problems, but personally I would like to know **what’s happening to the Missionary Baptist Church?**

If I can be of service to you, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Dr. James W. Smith
Chairperson, Legal/Constitution
Committee, General Baptist State
Convention of NC, Inc., 146 Presidents
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By Reverend Gwendolyn Horton

Women on the journey to peace ministry

Part 2

The purpose of this article and others to follow will be to feature women of the



Rev. Gwendolyn Horton

Ministries, etc.

It is my intention with God's guidance and inspiration to establish a ministry geared towards women with a calling on their lives to serve the Lord as

ministry that have been equipped to serve God's people as Pastors, Revival Speakers, Special Occasion Preachers, Chaplains, and Director of Christian

licensed and ordained ministers. So many women called into the ministry have been seeking a deeper understanding and direction from the Lord. Where would you have me to serve Lord, all of my attempts to serve have not been well received by your people? I have asked this same question so many times of the Lord; and He has placed me here as an encourager, partner, mentor and friend of women in the gospel ministry.

We must understand that all of us are not in the same place within our Christian walk. Women equipped for the ministry with a calling to pastor must be given the appropriate exposure to the people of the house of faith throughout North Carolina and the Nation. A prophet is not always well received within their home place of worship. It is

amazing that God has blessed His people with so many qualified women in the ministry and yet pulpits remain vacant for months throughout North Carolina and the Nation.

We must work diligently with our sisters to seek God's directions for their lives that have accepted their callings into the ministry but have not had the opportunity to attend Divinity School. We must be equipped to do our Father's will. Our sisters that have established churches and ministries or called to pastor a church must now be called upon to instruct others that will travel the same road, but with the wisdom and knowledge that we have learned along the way to serve God.

No woman should ever feel there is no place for her in the Lord's Ministry. God loves each and every one of us just the way He created us. We were all created in God's image and for a purpose. God has called us to be witnesses and we all have a unique calling on our lives. For every woman born to God there is a work to be completed.

It is important for women as well as men to support their calling into the ministry based on the word of God as recorded in the Bible. It is of an urgent nature that women in the ministry be familiar with biblical text throughout the Bible, which will ensure you with spiritual preparation when trials and tribulations come. A solid foundation based on God's word will help all of us endure when attacks occur. We should glorify God when attacks occur. These incidents will make us stronger in the Lord, and equip us to assist other women in the ministry.

Women in the Old and New Testaments were not spectators. They played an active, vibrant, and vital role in the day-to-day function of the church. God poured out His Spirit upon both sons

and daughters (Joel 2:28; Acts 2:17-18), and Spiritual-empowered women ministered using the full spectrum of gifts. Besides evangelism, prophecy, teaching and discipleship, women were involved in countless other ministries, together with service to their families (1 Timothy 5:10), according to their respective spiritual gifts (Acts 1:14, 12:12; 1 Corinthians 12:8-10; 1 Timothy 5:5; Philemon 2).

Women were an active part of the assembly in Philippi (Acts 16:11-15) and were involved in the establishment of churches in Thessalonica (Acts 17:4) and Berea (Acts 17:12).

Paul often referred to women as his "fellow workers". He specially acknowledged Mary (Roman 16:6), Tryphena, Tryphosa, and Persis (Roman 16:12), Euodia and Syntyche (Philippians 4:2), and Priscilla (Roman 16:3) as women who had labored hard for the gospel. The coming of the Kingdom revolutionized the involvement of ordinary people in the work of God. Whether Jew or Greek, slave or free, male or female - Kingdom ministry became the responsibility of all.

I am seeking women of the ministry who are willing to share their walk with the Lord. This ministry is not just for licensed or ordained women but for all women that have accepted that God has called you to a greater work. I fled from my calling for 10 years while waiting for man and woman approval. Your calling into the Gospel Ministry is between you and our God.

Please mail all inquiries to Reverend Gwendolyn Horton at 5324 Thistlebrook Court, Raleigh, North Carolina 27610. If you wish to discuss women in ministry further or would like to be presented in a publication, please contact Reverend Gwendolyn Horton. My home phone number is (919) 231-2429 and e-mail address is wehorton@aol.com. ■

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

To: Subscribers of the Baptist Informer
From: Dr. Archie D. Logan, Jr.
Date: June 1, 2003
Re: Renewing Your Subscription

Greetings and Peace! We hope that you have been enjoying the Baptist Informer with its wonderful articles and updates on the events within the churches of the General Baptist State Convention.

This announcement is to let you know that we are in the process of updating and correcting our database of subscribers to the Baptist Informer. Soon, we will be monitoring subscription expiration dates and ending subscriptions when they expire.

Your individual expiration date is located on your mailing label on every issue of the Baptist Informer. Please make a note of this date and read the following:

For those that have expired: You will continue to receive the Baptist Informer through August 2003. After this time, we will begin the process of closing expired subscriptions. We encourage you to renew your subscription within the next few weeks, so that we can continue your issues uninterrupted. You will not receive another notice.

For those that are current with your subscription: We ask that you check your mailing label and send in your renewal a month prior to your expiration date.

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J.J. JOHNSON BAPTIST ASSEMBLY INFORMATION

The Site:

The J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly is a tract of land comprising seventy-five (75) or more acres, much of which is covered with a mixture of North Carolina Pine, red and white oak trees. The location of the Baptist Assembly is on more than 75 rolling acres in Laurel Hill, North Carolina in Scotland County.

In 1967, approximately two-thirds of the acreage was donated by Dr. and Mrs. Joy J. Johnson and their daughter, Deborah (Mrs. Alexander Killiens). Additional acres were purchased by the Woman's Convention and General Baptist State Convention.

Our Purpose:

The purpose of the J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly in Laurel Hill is to provide a setting that is Christian in its atmosphere and is conducive to learning, worship, and meeting the needs of all individuals whom we serve. It seeks to provide opportunities for everyone to learn habits of good citizenship, and it provides at the same time opportunities to reach a maximum potential for Christian fellowship and fun experiences through democratic ideals and living.

The facility exists for the exclusive use by religious groups and/or organizations with similar aims regardless of ethnic origin.

Meeting Facilities:

At the J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly, there are various meeting facilities available. Listed below are the seating capacity (theater style) and lodging:

♦ Rowan Association Chapel	Seating Capacity: 300-400
♦ Horne Lodge	Seating Capacity: 20-25, Sleeps 12
♦ Alston Lodge	Seating Capacity: 100, Sleeps 64
♦ Lumber Bridge Association Lodge	Seating Capacity: 100, Sleeps 64
♦ Brown Assembly Dining Hall (Cafeteria Style)	Seating Capacity: 200

Individuals should bring their own linen, blankets, soap and other toiletries for the lodging facilities.

Current Annual Events

During the course of the year, the Conventional Family sponsors different ministries at the J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly. Among these are the following:

- ♦ Vacation Bible School (GBSC) – March
- ♦ Ministers' Wives Retreat (WBSC) – May
- ♦ Laymen's League Mini-Skills Retreat (GBSC) – May
- ♦ Leadership Training Conference (GBSC) – June
- ♦ Youth Bible Camp (WBSC) – June
- ♦ Laymen's League Boy's Summer Retreat (GBSC) – July
- ♦ Laymen's League Scouting Jamboree (GBSC) – August
- ♦ Laymen's League Men's Retreat (GBSC) – September
- ♦ North Carolina Branch of the 9th and 10th Calvary (Buffalo Soldiers) – October
- ♦ Usher's Retreat/Workshop (GBSC) – November
- ♦ Laymen's League Planning Session – December

The campus is available year round for meetings, weddings, banquets, family reunions, and other activities. Contact Rev. Eric Harris for the policies and procedures regarding each type of event.

*"And gathered them out of the lands, from the east,
and from the west, from the north, and from the south."
Psalm 107:3*

Send Applications & Funds to:
General Baptist State Convention
J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly
603 S. Wilmington Street
Raleigh, NC 27601

(Make checks payable to J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly)

Sources: "1974" Brochure and the J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly Guide And Handbook (1985).

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MT. ENNON BAPTIST CHURCH, - Clinton, Maryland, 12 miles outside of Washington, D.C., is seeking candidates for consideration as its pastor. The church was founded 22 years ago and has a 2000+ congregation that comprise a number of active ministries such as the Deacon and Deaconess Board; Trustee Board; Missionary Society; Women for Christ; Men for Christ; Evangelism; Christian Singles; Nurses; Security; Prison; and Youth.

The desired candidate will have extensive pastoral experience in preaching God's Word, managing a variety of church programs, counseling, conducting Bible studies and have a vision for youth and young adult ministries.

Major duties:

- Preaching two morning services each Sunday;
- Providing administrative oversight and guidance for all phases of church operations;
- Counseling members seeking spiritual guidance;
- Providing for continual spiritual growth through a variety of weekly Bible studies;
- Establishing evangelistic ministries for community outreach;
- Expanding youth oriented programs;

- Visiting the sick and shut-in.

Qualifications:

- Seminary degree in addition to a four-year undergraduate degree;
- Ordained in the Baptist faith;
- Five or more years of ministerial experience, pastoral experience preferred;
- Demonstrated oral and written communication skills;
- Excellent interpersonal and human relations skills;
- Submission to a background and credit check.

God led ministers and pastors interested in applying for this position should submit a resume to Mt. Ennon Baptist Church, Attn: Pastor Search Committee, P. O. Box 539, Clinton, Maryland 20735. All resumes should be received no later than September 30, 2003.

MALABY'S CROSSROADS MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH is now accepting resumes for a pastor. The ideal applicant must:

- be an ordained and licensed Missionary Baptist preacher,
- have an in-depth knowledge of and belief in Baptist doctrine,
- be led by the Holy Spirit,
- have at least 5 years experience as a minister (preferred),
- live a sincere Christian life,
- have strong, positive family values,
- be either currently enrolled in or have completed seminary training,
- have strong preaching and teaching ability,
- have a humble spirit, and
- attend all worship, Bible Study, and Sunday School sessions.

Interested applicants should mail packets containing resumes and the names and addresses of 3 references to the following address: Malaby's Crossroads Missionary Baptist Church, c/o The Pulpit Committee, P. O. Box

648, Knightdale, NC 27545.

WHITE'S CHAPEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH - Speed, NC, is currently accepting applications for a pastor with strong Missionary Baptist roots. The church is affiliated with the Old Eastern Missionary Baptist Association and the General Baptist State Convention of N.C. Interested applicants should provide the following:

Resume (including pastor experiences and educational qualifications)

A copy of religious credentials (license/ordination)

At least two personal references (no family)

Send information to: Deacon Joe W. Dickens, Jr., Chairman, Pastor Search Committee, White's Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, P. O. Box 296, Speed, NC 27881.

RISING STAR BAPTIST CHURCH, Walnut Cove, NC, is accepting applications for the position of pastor. Interested applicants should send resumes to the Pulpit Search Committee at P. O. Box 966, Walnut Cove, NC 27052.

NEW ZION MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH - Charlotte, NC is currently accepting resumes for the position of pastor. Applicants must:

- Be born-again as evidenced by character, dedication and lifestyle
- Have personal stamina and enthusiasm to encourage the spiritual growth of the congregation
- Have vision for the future of the church - spiritual, physical, and financial growth
- Licensed, ordained Baptist minister
- Ability to preach/teach and have strong administrative skills
- Knowledge of Baptist doctrine, policies and procedures

- Have some theological courses completed or continuing
- Have an acceptable combination of experience and formal training
- Work cooperatively with church officials
- Produce legible copies of ministerial license and certificate of ordination
- Produce references that include name, address, and telephone number, (1) professional reference, (2) references from pastors familiar with your ministry.

Please mail resumes and other pertinent materials to: The New Zion Missionary Baptist Church, 217 West Todd Lane, Charlotte, North Carolina 28208, Attention: Pastor Search Committee.

Resumes must be received by December 30, 2003.

LINCOLN HEIGHTS MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH - Cincinnati, Ohio, is seeking a full-time senior pastor. We are a suburban congregation of 1,500 members who attract a diverse membership from surrounding suburbs and the Greater Cincinnati area. We seek an experienced pastor who is committed to carrying out our mission of evangelizing, equipping and empowering through preaching, teaching and ministering to our congregation. Demonstrated visionary leadership, strong commitment to family care (including youth and senior ministries), community outreach and building strong ministries and leadership teams are desirable. Seminary degree or equivalent education is desirable, also.

If you feel God is leading you to this calling, please send inquiries or resumes to: Pastoral Search Committee, c/o Ulysses Rhea, 9991 Wayne Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45215; phone (513) 722-5422; fax (513) 552-3652.

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Haynes Grove Missionary Baptist Church

Attn: Deacon Eli Smith

Pulp Committee

P.O. Box 651

Cliffside, N.C. 28024

FIRST AFRICAN BAPTIST CHURCH - Goldsboro, NC is currently accepting resumes for the position of **Senior Pastor**. The church is affiliated with the Bear Creek Missionary Baptist Association and the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc.

Interested persons should possess the following qualifications:

- Licensed ordained Baptist Minister
- Born again Christian
- Ability to preach/teach and have administrative skills
- Knowledgeable of Baptist doctrine, policies and procedures
- Copies of ministerial license and ordination certification
- College degree and some seminary training
- References: business/personal
- Other criteria will be discussed during

interviews.

Mail resumes to:

First African Baptist Church

Attn: Deacon David Rogers

P. O. Box 1456

Goldsboro, North Carolina 27533

Deadline for resumes is September 30, 2003.

CHAPEL HILL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH - Autryville, NC: seeks a pastor to serve as its spiritual leader, teacher, counselor, and administrator. Some requirements are as followed:

- Must be born-again as evidenced by character and dedication
- Licensed, ordained Baptist minister
- Ability to preach/teach and have administrative skills
- Five years of pastoral experience preferred
- Some theological courses completed, and continuing
- Knowledge of Baptist doctrine, policies and procedures
- A resume, letter of interest, including a vision statement of their ministry
- Legible copies of ministerial license and ordination certification
- References: Include name, address and phone number, (1) Family reference, (1) Business reference, (1) Professional reference and (2) references from pastors

familiar with your character and ministry

• Other criteria will be discussed during interviews

Please mail any applications/resumes and/or related material to:

Chapel Hill Missionary Baptist Church

Attn: Deacon Bobby R. McAllister

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POPLAR SPRINGS MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH of Roaring River, North Carolina is seeking a Pastor. We are accepting resumes from interested applicants. Qualifications:

- Must be a Born-Again Christian
- Licensed Ordained Minister, with certifications to prove it.
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- Must be able to preach and teach, as well as communicate with all ages
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Send resumes to:

Deacon Board

2265 White Plains Rd.

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28669

MILL NECK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH - Como, NC: currently accepting applications for a Pastor with strong Missionary Baptist roots. We are affiliated with the West Roanoke Missionary Baptist Association and the General Baptist State convention. *Interested applicants should provide a resume to:* Carolyn M. Farrow, Secretary, Pastor Search Committee, Mill Neck Missionary Baptist Church, P.O. Box 68, Mill Neck Rd., Como, NC 27818.

BUNCOMBE BAPTIST CHURCH - Lexington, NC: accepting resumes from interested licensed ordained Missionary Baptist ministers.

Qualifications:

- Born again Christian
- Concerned with spiritual and intellectual growth of the church
- Ability to preach and teach God's Word
- Must be willing to teach and follow the Baptist Doctrines, policies and practices
- Ability to work with all age groups in the church
- Ability to carry out administrative,

PULPIT VACANCY NEW LIGHT MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH HALLSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA

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- Full of wisdom, knowledge and understand the office of Pastor and performs it according to the scriptures and the needs of the church.
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- One that rules his own house, having a good report.
- Knows the doctrine of a Missionary Baptist Church
- Must attend meetings of different auxiliaries in the church to become familiar with the organizations, whenever possible.
- Must visit the sick and shut-in when possible.
- Must attempt to become involved with the various programs that the church participates in outside the home church calendar.

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When you consult with me, my first step is a detailed inquiry of the various programs at your church. This enables me to understand the main focus of your ministry and it helps you understand my services. Our first meeting is to get acquainted and find out your needs.

The second step is providing a master plan of your entire church property and renderings or models of the proposed buildings.

The third step is preparing your construction drawings which include:

1. Sound systems
2. Special lighting effects
3. Design plans
4. Structural design
5. Energy saving heating and cooling
6. Specifications (in laypersons language)

I have found that coordinating all of these design phases through one firm avoids costly delays, misunderstanding and mistakes during constructions.

There are many phases in church planning and design which require a specialist in that field. When you start your next building program, I hope you will give me a call.

At Your Service,
Thomas L. Jones

CLASSIFIEDS

leadership and counseling duties

- Work cooperatively with church officials
- Family and community oriented
- Teach Bible Study and attend Sunday School and prayer meetings
- Theological and/or Seminary training preferred
- Good communications skills
- Must be a good role model of moral and ethical conduct

Please send resumes and inquiries to: Buncombe Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1533, Lexington, NC 27293.

GUILDFIELD M.B. CHURCH – New Bern, NC: currently accepting applications for a Pastor. Guildfield M.B. Church is an established church with a rich heritage in Eastern North Carolina. It is a growing congregation with active ministries focusing on the youth, senior citizens, the musical department, and Christian Education activities. Regular worship services are held every Sunday morning at 11:00 a.m. The church has membership in the Old Eastern Missionary Baptist Association.

PASTORAL DUTIES

- Serve as Senior Pastor and preach the Gospel

- Provide insight for spiritual growth of the church and outreach efforts
- Plan and implement Christian education opportunities for the membership
- Serve as an ex-officio member of all church auxiliaries
- Provide leadership to associate ministers affiliated with the church

QUALIFICATIONS

- Must be saved and have a personal relationship with the Lord
 - Must be ordained to preach and be able to serve as an administrator of a local congregation
 - Must possess interpersonal skills that facilitate interaction with church members and various community resources
 - Must possess leadership abilities
 - Must have personal stamina and enthusiasm to encourage the spiritual growth of the congregation
 - Must have at least two years of experience in church leadership in some capacity and some Bible school training
- Resumes will be accepted until the position is filled. To apply, send resume to the attention of Mrs. Vesta Mullins, Chairperson of the Pastoral Search Committee, at the church's address. For more information call Rev. Carolyn Squires, Committee Co-Chairperson at 252-638-4726.

836 Green Street
P.O. Box 12881
New Bern, NC 28560
252-633-2388

UNION GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH, Warrenton, NC: currently accepting applications for a Pastor. Interested applicants should provide the following:

A Resume

Send information to:

Brother Alonza Jones, Board Chairman
Pastor Search Committee
Route 2, Box 128
Norlina, NC 27563

FIRST MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH Thomasville, NC: currently accepting applications for a Pastor with strong Missionary Baptist roots. We are affiliated with the Johnston District Missionary Baptist Association and the General Baptist State Convention, interested applicants should provide a resume. Send information to: Tanya M. Autry, Chairperson
Pastor Search Committee
First Missionary Baptist Church
103 Church Street
Thomasville, NC 27360

EBENEZER BAPTIST CHURCH – Newburgh, NY: currently accepting applications for Senior Pastor with strong Baptist roots. The Committee will provide each candidate with an application packet.

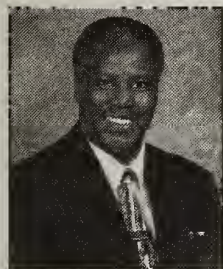
Send request to:

Ebenezer Baptist Church
ATTN: Deacon Milton
Buxton/Confidential
PO Box 248
Newburgh, NY 12551-0248

SHADY GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH – East Spencer, NC: currently accepting applications for a Pastor with strong Missionary Baptist roots. Interested applicants should provide the following:

1. A resume
 2. at least four references: (2) business (2) personal
 3. A copy of religious credentials: License/Ordination
- Send information to:
Shady Grove Baptist Church
ATTN: Clarence A. Jones, Chairperson
PO Box 447
East Spencer, NC 28039

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Dr. James F. Linville
Pastor

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"A Saving Station for Lost Souls and Enrichment Center for Christians"

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E-mail: pgbc2005@bellsouth.net

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Giving Back to the Community Program

Sanford Ford Lincoln Mercury and Ford of Lillington combined have been serving our communities for over 40 years. Sanford Ford Lincoln Mercury and Ford of Lillington have teamed up to help those in pursuit of higher education at Shaw University. For every vehicle that is purchased by a member of the General Baptist State Convention these two dealerships will donate \$200 towards *Shaw University's scholarship fund*. When you visit these dealerships you will see that our professional and courteous staff will provide you with all the help you need to find the vehicle that you want. Our com-

fortable, non-confrontational environment allows our customers to feel right at home. Our prices are unbeatable set at only \$500.00 over cost. So come on out and see us at Sanford Ford Lincoln Mercury or Ford of Lillington and see why our slogan means so much to us. "We treat you like family." 1st Timothy 5:8 states "If anyone does not provide for his relatives and especially for his immediate family, He has denied that faith and is worse than an unbeliever."

Churches, pastors, officers and members of the GBSC, get your church vans and vehicles today and ask for Mr. Michael Kemp McCoy.

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Lillington, NC 27546
(910) 814-2243

fordoflillington@earthlink.com
www.fordoflillington.com

CLASSIFIEDS

FOSTER MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH – Rocky Mount, NC: The Pulpit Search Committee of the Foster Memorial Missionary Baptist Church located in Rocky Mount, North Carolina, is accepting resume for the position of pastor. Applicants must possess the following qualifications:

- He must possess good moral and ethical conduct, living by Timothy 3:1-1, Titus 1:7-9 and abstain from study activities and inclinations as those cited in Romans 1:26-27.

- He must have a minimum of three (3) years experience as pastor with demonstrated ability in counseling and supervising all work for the church.

- He must live in the proximity of the church.

- He must be born again, filled with the Holy Spirit and called by God to preach God's word.

- He must possess a strong knowledge of the Missionary Baptist Doctrine, Church Policies, and Practices, and be willing to abide by them.

- He must have the skills required to work with all age groups, with special emphasis on the youth.

- He must have the skills required for planning and implementing a vision for spiritual, physical and financial growth

of the church. — He must be community oriented, and have strong family values.

- He must have a minimum of a high school diploma preferably a degree or courses in seminary training from an accredited college or university.

- He must be willing to attend Sunday School, Prayer Meetings, and teach Bible Study.

Please send resume to:

Foster Memorial Missionary Baptist Church, 1911 South Church Street

Post Office Box 6317

Rocky Mount, NC 2802-6317

C/O The Pulpit Committee

Trustee Hiawatha Knight

MOUNT CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH – Shelby, NC: currently accepting applications for a pastor with strong Missionary Baptist roots. The Church is affiliated with the Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Association, and the General Baptist State Convention of N.C. Interested applicants should provide the following:

Resume (including pastor experiences and educational qualifications)
A copy of religious credentials (license/ordination)
At least three personal references (no

family)

Send information to:

Pastor Search Committee

Mount Calvary Baptist Church

P.O. Box 3181

Shelby, N.C. 28151-3181

HOPPERS CHAPEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH – Shelby, NC:

now accepting resumes for the position of pastor. Potential candidates must be a born again Christian with strong Baptist roots. Hoppers Chapel is a member of the Ebenezer Baptist Association. All applicants must possess the following qualifications.

- Must be ordained and licensed

- Must have at least 1 yr. Pastoral experience

- Must provide credentials of theological training

- Must be an effective teacher and counselor

- Must possess extensive knowledge of Baptist Doctrine

- Provide a mission statement for the church

- Live in close proximity to the church

The applicant must have the ability to plan and implement a growth strategy for both the spiritual and physical growth of the church.

Send all resumes to:

Hoppers Chapel Missionary Baptist

Church

C/O Pulpit Committee

415 West Graham St.

Shelby, N.C. 28150



BASIC REQUIREMENTS FOR SERVICE:

1. Born-again Christian, Spirit-filled, and divinely gifted in music ministry.

2. Willingness to spiritually align the music ministry with Pastoral vision.

3. Able to play the piano, keyboard and/or organ; able to read music and versatile.

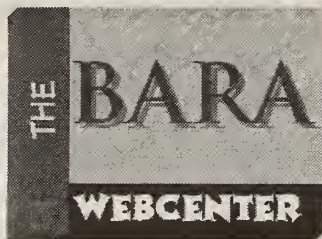
4. Able to prepare choirs for Sunday morning worship services and other services.

5. Able to teach, as, well as direct choirs, with humility and love.

6. Able to rehearse with all choirs on schedule, and available for all Sunday services.

7. Able to accompany Pastor and choirs to other services as required (or ensure qualified substitute is available).

8. Able to select appropriate hymns and songs for worship.



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MINISTER OF MUSIC, FULL-TIME. EBENEZER MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH, Wadesboro, NC

Born-again Christian, Spirit-filled
Ability to read music and versatile
Willingness to align the music ministry with Pastoral vision

Ability to prepare choirs for Sunday morning worship services and other services

Ability to teach, as well as direct

choirs, with humility and love

Ability to accompany Pastor and choirs at various engagements

Other duties as outlined

Please send resume to:

Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church
c/o Dr. W. W. Williams
612 Salisbury Street
Wadesboro, NC 28170

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - RALEIGH, NC is seeking a full time Minister of Music at it's location at 101 South Wilmington Street in Raleigh, NC. First Baptist Church is a historical black congregation organized at the North Carolina State House (now the Capitol) in 1812. This historical congre-

gation seeks an individual who is willing to grow with its Pastor, Dr. Dumas A. Harshaw, Jr. and his flock. This position requires a music and worship leader who is spiritual and experienced in providing the total awareness of the movement of God's spirit in the assembly of God's people.

Principal Function: The Minister of Music at First Baptist Church is responsible to the Pastor and is supervised by the Pastor for the development and promotion of the entire music program.

Duties and Responsibilities: The duties and responsibilities are as follows:

1. Direct Planning, organizing, conducting, and evaluating of a comprehensive music ministry.
2. Supervise the work of paid or volunteer music staff.
3. Cooperate with the church process to enlist and train leaders for the church music ministry, including choir workers, song leaders, and accompanists for the church worship experiences.
4. Lead in planning and promoting a choir program, direct and coordinate the work of choir directors.
5. Arrange and provide music for weddings, funerals, special projects, min-

istries, and other church-related activities upon request.

6. Plan, organize, and promote choir tours, mission trips, camps, festivals, workshops, clinics, and programs for the various choirs.

7. Develop and supervise a music library, and maintain materials, supplies, musical instruments and other equipment.

8. Keep informed on music methods, materials, promotion, and administration through continuing education and attending music workshops.

9. Prepare an annual music budget and manage the approved budget.

10. Assist the pastor in planning all services of worship, coordinate the music program with the church calendar and emphasize the church vision.

11. Lead in the development of a music academy.

12. Perform other duties as assigned by the pastor.

ST. JAMES BAPTIST CHURCH - Greensboro, NC: Seeks Minister of Music with the following requirements:

- Born-again Christian, Spirit-filled, divinely gifted in music ministry
- Willingness to spiritually align the music ministry with Pastoral vision
- Ability to play piano, keyboard and/or organ, ability to read music and versatile
- Ability to prepare choirs for Sunday morning worship service and other services
- Ability to teach, as well as direct choirs, with humility and love
- Ability to rehearse with all choirs on schedule, and available for all Sunday services.
- Ability to accompany Pastor and choirs to other services as required (or assure qualified substitute is available)
- Ability to select appropriate hymns and songs for worship
- Has the God given ability to work with diverse groups and personalities.
- Preferably a degree in music
- Must be trustworthy, punctual, and fair in all of service to the congregation

Duties include: Be prepared for worship service and rehearsals; Be on time for worship service and rehearsals; Make sure instruments are in good condition at all times for performances; Have immediate access to "Baptist Hymnals" at all times; Be receptive to spontaneous input of members; Have cordial spirit in presenting rehearsal strategy; Be flexible in presentation; Be mindful of time; Adjust accordingly; Try to be available for engagements representing St. James outreach ministry; Implement new strategies and methods gradual, so growth can be achieved. All applicants

send resume to:

St. James Baptist Church
Attention Rev. King
and Music Committee
536 West Florida Street
Greensboro, NC 27406

MINISTER OF MUSIC WANTED SPRINGFIELD BAPTIST CHURCH - Stanley, NC:

- A Spirit-filled leader - skilled in the Word.
- Child of God
- Faithful and committed to God's program
- The gift to play by ear with or without the accompaniment of other musicians
- Has the ability to read and teach music
- Plays versatile music - which includes hymns, spirituals, contemporary gospel and praise songs
- Available to accompany the pastor and choirs to other churches when and as needed
- Available for all rehearsals and Sunday Worship service

Please contact: Melissa Fanning - (H) 704-563-3230 or Pastor Theodore Armstrong - Church 704-263-4426

MINISTER OF MUSIC NEEDED -

Wake Forest, NC: congregation seeks musician. 1) The duties include working directly with the Pastor in order to assist and cooperate with him in Christian Worship, 2.) Playing during Sunday morning worship service, 3.) Rehearsing with various choirs one night per week, 4.) And accompanying the Pastor on engagements to other churches. Please forward a cover letter and resume to: Evans Grove Missionary Baptist Church
12700 Creedmoor Road
Highway 50
Wake Forest, NC 27587
(919) 870-8874

MINISTER OF MUSIC VACANCY: THE SPRING GREEN MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH -

Warrenton, NC: seeks a Minister of Music to provide musical direction and accompaniment for 4 choirs in the church. This person will work closely with the Pastor to provide spiritual leadership in the ministry of Jesus Christ through music, i.e. hymns, spiritual songs, and praise and worship music that glorifies God.

We are accepting resumes from candidates with the appropriate qualifications. (Specific qualifications listed in beginning of staff musician section.) For additional information please send inquiry or resume to: Spring Green Missionary Baptist

GBSC Is Available To Work With Churches

By Dr. Archie D. Logan Jr.

Greetings! The General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina is available to work with your church during the time you do not have a Pastor. We will work with the Deacons and other officers to provide guidance as you search for a new pastor to lead your church.

Some of the things we offer:

- We have ordained Baptist ministers available to assist the Deacons in carrying out the Church Ordinances: Lord Supper and Baptism.
- We have ordained clergy who can serve as an "Interim Minister" in your church.
- Some suggested workshops:

- ✓ How To Select An Interim Pastor?
- ✓ How To Call A Pastor?
- ✓ How Much Should We Pay Our Pastor?
- ✓ Church Administration
- ✓ How To Plan A Church Budget
- ✓ Effective Bible Study
- ✓ Evangelism Classes
- ✓ Special Training For Deacons/Trustees
- ✓ Christian Education Planning
- ✓ Church Development

Please call if you are interested in any of these services!

1-800-639-GBSC (4272)

Church
PO Box 924, Warrenton, NC 2589
Rev. Dennis G. Lindsay, Pastor

MUSICIAN NEEDED - Oakboro, NC: Must be a Christian available to serve every Sunday. Prepare Choirs and Praise Team for Sunday morning worship. Rehearse with choirs on scheduled times. Be available to accompany Pastor and choirs to church functions. Direct congregation in congregational hymns. Must be able to play by ear as well as read music

To apply call:
(704) 532-6813 or E-mail to Galilee, NC@aol.com
Galilee Missionary Baptist Church
PO. Box 644, Oakboro, NC 28129

CHURCH MUSICIAN VACANCY: FIRST MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH - Selma, NC: seeks musician for youth choir. Must be a Christian with good character.

Requirements:

- Play the organ and piano
- Able to play sacred and gospel music
- Read music and have the ability to play by ear

Send resume to:
Reverend S. Manfred Isom, Pastor
415 Star Ruby Drive
Knightsdale, NC 27545

MINISTER OF MUSIC NEEDED: THE PENN AVENUE MOUNT OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH -

Lewiston, NC: seeking a musician for a station church, a Christian, who is responsible, has good character and a good reputation.

Requirements:

- *Plays the organ and piano
- *Able to work with a diverse group of singers
- *Experienced in all sacred music
- *Reads music and is versatile in playing by ear

Send resumes or responses to:
Mount Olive Baptist Church
PO Box 214
Lewiston-Woodville, NC 27849
Attention: William W. Peele, Jr.

MINISTER OF MUSIC WANTED: THE PENN AVENUE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH - Oxford, NC: currently seeking a Minister of Music.

QUALIFICATIONS:

(Specific qualifications listed in beginning of staff musician section.)

*Will be responsible with the pastor's approval in hiring other musicians if deemed necessary. Salary: Negotiable Sunday worship services. Service begins each Sunday at 11 a.m. with the

exception of 5th Sunday services which begin at 10 a.m. Please send resume to the above listed address or inquiries may be made by calling one of the above listed numbers.

CHURCH MUSICIAN NEEDED - Warren County, NC: Knowledge of music and the ability to play by ear is appreciated. Presently, morning worship service is held every fourth (4th) Sunday, but we are considering an additional Sunday for services. Must be able to play for youth choir and adult choir. Church is located in Warren County, North Carolina. For further information, please call:

(252) 257-0221

CHURCH MUSICIAN: THE CEDAR GROVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH - Gibson, NC: seeking a person to serve as Church Musician. Qualifications: (Specific qualifications listed in beginning of staff musician section.) Salary negotiable. Please send resume to Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Church at this address.

Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Church
14600 Railroad St.
Gibson, NC 28343

CHURCH MUSICIAN: THE FRIENDSHIP MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH - High Point, NC: accepting resumes for a Church Musician. Qualifications: (Specific qualifications listed in beginning of staff musician section.) Salary negotiable.
715 West Willis Ave.
High Point, NC 27260

JEFFRIES CROSS BAPTIST CHURCH - Burlington, NC:

Send cover letter and resume to Jeffries Cross Baptist Church, 2015 Jeffries Cross Rd., Burlington, NC 27217. Phone: 336-226-9626. We are currently seeking a musician who will work directly with the pastor to provide spiritual leadership in the music ministry. Qualifications: 1. A Christian with piano, keyboard, organ ability; read music, play chords, teach harmony, direct choirs, conduct two rehearsals per month with four choirs, accompany pastor on engagements, accommodate traditional and contemporary worship styles.

CHURCH MUSICIAN - Hope Mills, NC: Swans Creek Missionary Baptist Church, North Carolina. Qualifications:

*A Spirit-filled leader - divinely gifted in music ministry

*Willingness to align the music ministry with Pastoral vision

*Able to play piano, keyboard; able to read music and play by ear

*Able to prepare choirs for morning worship service and other services

*Able to rehearse with all choirs on a regular basis and available for all Sunday services

*Accompany Pastor and choirs to other services


Please contact or send resume to: 2404 Swans Creek Church Rd., Hope Mills, NC 28348 (910)323-4595

MINISTER OF MUSIC NEEDED - Henderson, NC: congregation seeking a full-time minister of music, who will be responsible for directing, managing, and developing all functions and aspects associated with planning and implementing a comprehensive Church

Music Ministry. Must be available for all worship services and practices.

Send resumes or responses to:

St. James MBC, P.O. Box 2205, Henderson, NC 27536. Attention: William H. Clayton, II Senior Pastor.

 **For Sale**

CHURCH PEWS FOR SALE.

Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church, Barbee Rd., Morrisville, NC has church pews for sale. There are fifteen (15) 8-ft. pews and twenty-seven (27) 6-ft. pews. All inquiries should be directed to Rev. McArthur Pettiford at (336) 570-9111, Trustee Herbert Barbee at (919) 469-3174 / (919) 274-6696 or Trustee Anthony Holland at (919) 474-3186 / (919) 454-6378. n

Richard H. Moore
State Treasurer

Dr. Archie Logan, Jr.
Executive Secretary-Treasurer
General Baptist State Convention

Dear Pastor,

The General Baptist State Convention joins Richard H. Moore, State Treasurer, in encouraging your Association and church to identify your unclaimed property. As your State Treasurer and Executive Secretary Treasurer of the General Baptist State Convention, the two of us serve important roles in North Carolina. It is for this reason we want to make you aware of a program that may benefit both your church and its members.

The North Carolina Department of State Treasurer is responsible for administering the "Escheat and Unclaimed Property Program". The purpose of this program is simple; when a company or financial institution is holding money that belongs to a North Carolina resident and that individual cannot be located, the company is required by law to turn the money over to the Department of State Treasurer, where it is held until the rightful owner claims it. This "unclaimed cash" is often the result of forgotten utility deposits, bank accounts, stocks that were purchased, and checks that have not been cashed. Currently, the North Carolina Department of State Treasurer is holding over \$350 million in unclaimed cash that belongs to 1.4 million people and organizations.

It is important that as much of this money as possible gets returned to the rightful owners. In order to do that, we need your help. We hope that you can assist us in getting the word out about this program by letting your church members know it is there and making them aware of how they can check to see if they may be owed money.

The easiest way to find out if your name is on the Unclaimed Property list is to log onto the North Carolina Department of State Treasurer website at www.treasurer.state.nc.us. You then click on the "Unclaimed Property Program" link to get to a page where you can type in your name. We suggest not only checking your name with the proper spelling, but try variations on the spelling of your name, as well. Sometimes the reason money does not get to an individual is because the company sending it has the wrong address or incorrect spelling of the person's name.

It is also important to know that claiming your money through the Department of State Treasurer is completely free. You should be aware that there are services that DO charge a fee to locate any unclaimed funds that may be owed to you. It is not necessary to use these services or to pay a fee to have your money returned. You can claim your money directly from the Department of State Treasurer at no cost.

We believe sharing information regarding the "Unclaimed Property Program" with your church members is a valuable service. Not only will this information help your members to claim any money that they may be owed, but it will also be helpful to your communities as the word travels to relatives, friends and neighbors of your members. We also suggest you check the name of your church to see if money is owed to it. There are thousands of businesses and organizations that have unclaimed cash, and your church may be one of them.

We appreciate your assistance in helping us to make the citizens of North Carolina aware of this program, and look forward to working with you to return as much money as possible to your church members. The General Baptist Foundation is also available to assist you in locating your money at no cost; simply call the Foundation toll free at 1-866-858-7847 or log on to the General Baptist State Convention's website at www.GBSC.org, then click on the [N.C. Department of State Treasurer](http://www.GBSC.org) link to access the "Unclaimed Property Program".

Sincerely,

Richard H. Moore
State Treasurer

Dr. Archie Logan, Jr.
Executive Secretary-Treasurer
General Baptist State Convention

General Baptist State Convention of NC Foundation

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- Care Charges
- Psychiatric
- Hospice Care
- Emergency Room



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- Universal Whole Life Insurance



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The General Baptist Foundation offers each affiliated church, bookkeeping services to small (0 to 150 members) and medium size churches (150 to 300 members). This assistance includes the following.

Description	# Of Checks Written	GBSC Member Cost	Non-GBSC Member Cost	
Bank Statement Reconciliation	30 or less each month	\$10.00 per week	\$15.00 per week	General Ledger
Financial Statement Preparation	Quarterly	No Charge (1)	No Charge (1)	Income and Expense Reports Only*
Accounting Software Installation on local church computer		\$249.00	\$349.00	Includes 1-Hour Of Training (2)

Balance Sheet Preparation Cost Is Determined On A Case-By-Case Basis.

(1) Included in the cost of the Bank Statement Reconciliation Service.

(2) No cost for mileage up to a 30-mile radius from Cary, NC. Cost after the 30-mile radius is calculated and \$1.00 per mile round trip.

If your church would like assistance in this matter, please contact the Foundation toll-free at 1(866) 687-4631 or 1-866-OURGOD1 and ask for a representative to explain the details.

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5. With an Annuity, the surrender charges disappear after a defined period of time, unlike other instruments that reset their penalties each time the account is renewed.
6. With an Annuity, the interest rate can be higher than other alternatives.
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COVENANT OF CARE PLAN

"From Bondage To Abundance!"

By Archie D. Logan, Jr., Executive Secretary-Treasurer

The General Baptist Foundation offers every Pastor and his or her local church a "Covenant of Care Plan". This plan can be individually customized to meet every budget. It contains insurance for life, short and long term disability, and long-term care. Take a look at the example below and

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Call the GBF, Inc., for more information on this and other programs that will help your congregation and pastor.

Benefit	Monthly Contribution	Annual Contribution	Covenant Partners
Short Term Disability (1)	\$24.76	\$297.12	Unum Provident Insurance
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Total	\$197.50*	\$2,370.00	

*\$35 monthly administrative fee included in pricing.

- (1) 7-day elimination period for sickness or accident. Benefit Period 12 weeks up to a maximum of 60%/\$1000 weekly
- (2) 90-day elimination period for sickness or accident. Benefit period to age 65 up to a maximum of 60%/\$3000 monthly.
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ATTENTION: Pastors, Trustees, and Financial Committees

Mr. Dexter Perry and his staff have finance, loan, annuity and long-range planning programs that help build the stewardship foundations for your church. Also ask them about the

General Baptist Annuity Gift Program we are doing through North Carolina Mutual Insurance Company. One telephone call will make a blessed difference in your church Ministry. ■

If You Begin At Age	Monthly Pretax Deposits	At Age 65 You will Have Deposited	At Age 65 Your 403(b) Balance Will Be
25	\$25.00	\$12,000.00	\$49,787.27
	\$50.00	\$24,000.00	\$99,574.54
	\$100.00	\$48,000.00	\$199,149.07
35	\$25.00	\$9,000.00	\$25,112.88
	\$50.00	\$18,000.00	\$50,225.75
	\$100.00	\$36,000.00	\$100,451.50
45	\$200.00	\$72,000.00	\$200,903.01
	\$50.00	\$12,000.00	\$23,102.04
	\$100.00	\$24,000.00	\$46,204.09
55	\$200.00	\$48,000.00	\$92,408.18
	\$300.00	\$72,000.00	\$138,612.27
	\$50.00	\$6,000.00	\$8,193.97
65	\$100.00	\$12,000.00	\$16,387.93
	\$200.00	\$24,000.00	\$32,775.87
	\$300.00	\$36,000.00	\$49,163.80
75	\$400.00	\$48,000.00	\$65,551.74

*Assumes a 6% rate of return annually plus reinvestment of all dividends and interest earned.

Taxes will be owed once 403(b) distributions begin, however most individuals assume they will be in a more favorable tax bracket at retirement or able to take advantage of a special tax treatment associated with 403(b) plans called a five-year forward averaging. Professional tax counsel is advisable to determine if special tax treatment for lump sum distributions is available.

RURAL AFRICAN, from page 30

act to personally right a perceived wrong to somebody within the congregation based on what you have learned through your research. Take no sides and take no prisoners. Just read.

The danger is if you do not read, you will inevitably change something that means nothing to you but everything to the church. You might find yourself unknowingly knocking over sacred cows that will definitely come back to challenge you. They may "vote" for it because you are the pastor but they will not implement it because it is contrary to who they think (or have been led to believe) that they are. Save yourself some frustration, and read.

As a church member you should know the history of the church as well. Not just what the disinfected and glamorized version that we hear read on church anniversary, but the history that makes this church unique. Many new members join that truly know nothing about who we are and what makes us tick. But when they break (along with the pastor) one of our unwritten rules that shape our identity, we will let them have it. Every new member's class ought to have at least one section or session that deals specifically with church history and traditions that are specific to that location. It would

be wise to get one of the members (not necessarily a teacher, but a volunteer) to teach this particular concentration themselves and to rotate it around amongst each other. This insures that succeeding generations will hear from those that lived it, what the church history is, and why they are who they are. This also includes more people in the educational outreach of the church. This can only be positive for the church and its future.

In closing, after the printing of the first article in this series I was delighted to receive a phone call from another rural church pastor, Rev. Dr. Shaw, from Columbus, Ohio. He suggested that an anthology of ministry for rural churches should be compiled one day as a resource for rural church pastors around the country. What works and what does not work from those that are working it, or have worked it. This is a wonderful idea! With all of the experience that makes up a part of the readership of the Baptist Informer, if this project is deemed viable and completed, we could save a whole lot of heartache and heartbreak to those that follow in our footsteps. Won't you pray about that? If I can be of any further service to you, please do not hesitate to contact me at (919) 688-3093 or e-mail at stayblessed@consultant.com.

YOUTH MINISTRY from page 31

Keith Curry, 135 Garden Drive, Lexington, North Carolina 27292. Phone: 336-250-5281-E-mail: kcurry@triad.rr.com.

¹Stanley Grenz, *A Primer On Postmodernism* (Grand Rapids: MI: Eerdmans Publishing, 1996), 17.

²Wendy Murray Zoba, "The Class of 00, Part 1" Christianity Today, 23 February, 1997, 18.

³Ibid., 2.

⁴See the difference between commandments, statutes, judgments, etc., pointed out, Leviticus 26:15.

⁵Deut 6:2.

⁶John Locke. *AN ESSAY CONCERNING HUMAN UNDERSTANDING* (Amherst: Prometheus Books, 1995), 108.

⁷Everett Goodwin, *The New Hiscox Guide for Baptist Churches* (Valley Forge: Judson Press, 1995), 156.

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BAPTIST INFORMER

Stretching Your Power: Your Mind

One of the most remarkable stories in the Bible is the story of Moses and the children of Israel's confrontation with Pharaoh and his army at the Red Sea. To know the circumstances surrounding this story is to know that Moses and the children of Israel were in a situation that appeared hopeless. In spite of the circumstance, Moses and the children of Israel, by the grace of God, were victorious over Pharaoh and his powerful army at the Red Sea.

What makes this story so enchanting and inspirational to me is what Moses used to defeat Pharaoh and his army at the Red Sea. The only source of power Moses had to fight Pharaoh and his army was a little rod. However, unbelievable power was channeled through the rod when Moses was willing to follow God's instruction to lift up the rod and hold it over the Red Sea. Sometimes we fail to realize the power we have right in our hands. It is just a matter of lifting them and stretching them as God has instructed.

Our children have returned to school, and I am praying that all of our students will have a challenging, productive and successful school

year. Two things that I desire for all our students: (1) they perform to their fullest potential academically, and (2) they maintain a respectful character. Strong academic achievement complimented with a strong sound character will bring many wonderful opportunities your way.

I do not want to be unrealistic. So to our students I want to say that I am sympathetic and empathic to the rigorous demands of school. I will be the first to say school at times can be difficult, and sometimes tough as it relates to being able to comprehend the lessons taught in the many classes you will undertake this school year. No, school is not easy. Nevertheless, like Moses and the children of Israel at the Red Sea, you have the power in your hand to absorb the work. You have a mind, the most powerful weapon that has been given to humankind. But you must "stretch it out."

Gregory R. Peterson in his book, *Minding God*, wrote, "We are, the argument goes, unique among all creatures on Earth, and unique in a way that sets us above all. Wings make birds different, but they do not make birds special. It is

our minds that make human special. We think, reason, and argue in ways not possible for any other creature on Earth." Everything invented came through the lifting and stretching of someone's mind. For power to be channeled through our mind we must lift up and stretch forth our mind. You can comprehend whatever subject matter that comes your way, if you are willing to lift up and stretch forth your mind.

In the process of writing this I received a new revelation about the slogan for the United Negro College Fund, "A mind is a terrible thing to waste." It was revealed to me that the mind is such a terrible thing to waste because of the power inherent within it. It is extremely terrible to have so much power to achieve and not use it.

My beloved children in the Lord, have a productive school year by lifting up your mind and stretching it. The more you stretch your mind the more powerful it becomes. And in the words of James Cone, "Love God with your mind."

- Editor

BAPTIST INFORMER

603 S. Wilmington Street
Raleigh, NC 27601
USPS 042-680

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BAPTIST INFORMER

Volume 126, No. 10

Publication of the General Baptist State Convention of N.C., Inc.
Voice of 500,000 North Carolina Baptists

October 2003

136th Annual Session October 26 - 30, 2003

To Serve The Present Age Through Preaching, Teaching & Empowerment

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS • PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS • PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

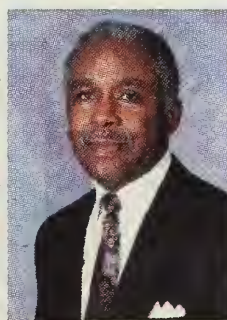


*The Reverend
Dr. Leonzo
Lynch, 3rd
Vice President
and Host
Pastor.*



*The Reverend
Dr. Julius R.
Scruggs, Pastor,
First Missionary
Baptist Church,
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*Dr. Charles
T. Bullock,
GBSC
President,
Pastor Martin
Street Baptist
Church,
Raleigh, NC.*



*Reverend Dr.
J.T. Robeson,
Dean, Shaw
University
Divinity School
will coordinate
Shaw Divinity
School curricu-
lum during the
session*



*Special Guest:
Dr. Jesse V.
Bottoms,
Poughkeepsie,
N.Y.*

*By Dr. Archie D. Logan, Jr.
Executive Secretary-Treasurer*

The 136th Annual Session of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina will convene in Charlotte, NC, October 26 - 30, 2003. The Ebenezer Baptist Church, Reverend Dr. Leonzo Lynch, Pastor, will serve as host. The session theme is "Serving The Present Age" Ephesians 4 (KJV).



**Dr. Archie
Logan, Jr.**

GBSC President Dr. Charles T. Bullock and his administration join me in inviting you to this session. Dr. Bullock was the first President elected in this century and millennium to serve the Convention. It is important for all churches to pre-register. If you have questions, please call Baptist Headquarters, 800/639-GBSC.

Make your plans now! ■

*Reverend Dr.
Linda W. Bryan,
Assistant Dean,
Shaw
University
Divinity School
will coordinate
Shaw Divinity
School curricu-
lum during the
session*



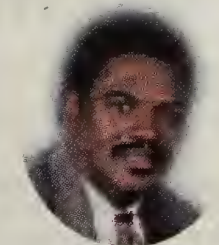
*Attorney Kenneth Lewis, Durham, NC,
will update the
Convention on
"State
Government
contracting with
African American
Owned
Businesses: Are
We Receiving
Our Fair
Share?"*



*Pastor Claude
Alexander
University Park
Baptist Church,
Charlotte, NC
will preach in
the late night
Evangelism
Ministry
Program*



*Reverend Carl
E. Brinkley, Jr.,
Pastor, Mount
Olive
Missionary
Baptist Church,
Fayetteville, NC
will deliver the
Annual Session
Address*



*Dr. Thomas L. Walker,
Pastor, Ebenezer Baptist
Church, Rocky Mount,
NC, Chairperson of the
NC Martin Luther King,
Jr., Commission*



*Pastor Joseph R.
Samuels, St. Stephens
Baptist Church, Winston-
Salem, NC, the Dean of
NC Preachers will share
in late night Ministry*



*Dr. Sidney Locks, Pastor,
Cornerstone Missionary
Baptist Church,
Greenville, NC,
Chairperson, GBSC Voter
Education and Political
Action Committee*

*Dr. William A.
Thurston,
Professor
Religion, Shaw
University, will
lead
Discipleship
Training dur-
ing the Session*



Our 136th Year • 1867 - 2003

By Rev. Dr. Terry Thomas, Editor

A few years ago among the most exciting and entertaining commercials to me, was a commercial for the soft drink Sprite featuring kids who wanted to be like Mike. Of course, the Mike of whom the commercial was referring to was none other than Michael Jordan. If you are familiar with the commercial, you perhaps remember how the commercial featured kids on the basketball court trying to emulate Michael Jordan's moves or style of play on the basketball court while a great rhythmic song played in the background with the lyrics emphasizing the desire to be like Mike. As the commercial was ending, with a strong base and drum beat, the song repeatedly reiterated these words, "if I could be like Mike."

That commercial became one of my favorite commercials. The music and action of the little kids in the commercial always created a cheerful feeling within me. Although the commercial is one of my all time favorites, in a true sense, it did not demonstrate to the kids what they needed to do if they really wanted to be like Mike. The commercial focused on where Michael Jordan had arrived in his professional career as a basketball player, but it did not tell of his journey that got him there.

Now, if by chance I was asked to rewrite the commercial, I would keep the same music in the background, but I would add flashes of Michael Jordan's activities throughout the various stages of the foundational building years of his life. For to truly have a chance of becoming like Mike, I need to know and do what Michael Jordan did during the different foundational building years of his life in order to become what he became.

Unfortunately, I will probably never be asked to rewrite that commercial. But what I can do is acknowledge an important concept that was advocated in the Sprite commercial. This concept I strongly feel should be included in the objectives of the children's ministry of our churches. I believe that the church should have an image of what our children need to become (be like...?) in order for our children to be able to fair well and be vital human beings in our society. The concept is not an idea of cloning, rendering duplications of existing personalities. Rather, the concept is centered around the idea of a state of preparedness, preparing them to make their mark in society.

For the church to help our children in this endeavor, the church must know what

to expose our children to during the different states of their development.

I learned from the book, *Sketches of Jewish Social Life*, by Alfred Edersheim, that there are at least nine various stages designated in the child-life of a Hebrew. Each stage, according to Edersheim, depicts a fresh stage of life. It begins with the newly born state, the *jeled* (Exodus 2:3,6,8). The next state is *jonek* (Isaiah 53:2), and the other stages continue in this order, *ole* (Lamentation 4:4), *gamul* (Psalm 131:2), *taph* (Esther 3:13), *elem* (which denotes becoming firm and strong), *naar* (the youth stage), and *bachur* (Jeremiah 18:21). For an unknown reason, the ninth stage was not listed. Due to limitation of space, I cannot elaborate on each stage in life of a Hebrew child.

However, what is essential to us in the understanding of each designated stage in the life of a Hebrew child is the intentionality, the learning objective of each stage in the life of the Hebrew child. For instance, before the age of three, careful training of the memory commenced. This was done for the sake of the child being able to preserve every word of the tradition. At age five the child reading of the Hebrew Bible was to begin, starting strangely with the book of Leviticus. The reading started with the book of Leviticus because Leviticus contained those ordinances, which it behooved the child to know as early as possible. This was for their protection and safety. I found the objective in the process of teaching to read quite interesting. In teaching to read, the alphabet was to be imparted by drawing the letters on a board, until the child became familiar with them. Next, the teacher would point in the copy read with his finger, or, still better, with a style, to keep up the attention of the pupil. None but well-corrected manuscripts were to be used insuring the children would learn things correctly the first time. This was done because mistakes impressed upon a young mind were not easily corrected.

I firmly believe that the African American Church, as with the Hebrew children, must have a curriculum with a specific learning objective to awaken the enate capabilities of the various developmental stages of the child. Lora-Ellen McKinney states in her book, *Christian Education in the African American*, "Christian educators...should be acquainted with the developmental expectations appropriate to children of different ages."¹ A great book to include in your youth's ministry library is a book by Cheri Fuller entitled, *Opening Your Child's Nine Learning Windows*. Fuller states in her book, "In this time of explosive growth and networking of brain cells, there are prime times -- windows of oppor-

tunity -- when the brain is particularly ready and eager to gain specific new skills."² Then she writes, "Awareness of these learning windows is a big part of making the most of the opportunities."³ The following are nine windows identified by Fuller: the emotion window, the creativity window, the curiosity window, the physical window, the music window, the language window, the math and logic window, the spiritual window, and the values window.

We must not miss out on those opportunities to open the different learning windows in the life of the African American child. Amos N. Wilson ascertains in his book, *The Developmental Psychology of the Black Child*, "One of the major foundational ingredients for succeeding in the white dominated world is the mastery of the language, the vocabulary of that world. This means a firm mastery in all of its various related aspects, or the graphical (reading writing), lexical (vocabulary), semantic (meaning), syntactical (grammar), expressive (speaking) qualities of the language. This mastery which is firmer the earlier it begins in life, (the first two years) is the keystone in the cognitive, social-psychological superstructure of the individual."⁴ Our children generally do not start public school until the age of five. However, "the child develops and changes rapidly during the first two years...The second phase of the brain growth occurs during the first two years of a child development."⁵ If we wait until the child begins public school to teach the language and vocabulary of his or her world, we miss out on the opportunity in which the learning of the language and vocabulary can be obtained rapidly. Therefore, the church must have programs to help during the preschool developmental years of our children.

I want to extend an invitation to leaders of children's ministry and youth min-

istry in the different churches throughout our convention. I want to extend this invitation for the purpose of establishing a forum to develop a curriculum that addresses the various developmental stages in the life of the African American child and how the church can play a role in fulfilling those needs. As a convention we must seek to do this because although the "brain", asserts McKinney, "of all of God's children are designed with the same capacity for learning, there can be cultural differences in learning style preferences."⁶ To effectively educate our children, we understand those learning style preferences that are unique to the African American child.

Nevertheless, Cheri Fuller makes a statement that I believe is the key in understanding the different stages and the needs of those different stages in the development of a child. She wrote, "understanding your child's learning windows starts with a petition from the help of the One who made them."⁷ The scripture says of Jesus, "And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon him." Let us build a program so that our children might grow, be waxed strong in the spirit, and be filled with wisdom so that the grace of God might be upon them.

¹ Lora-Ellen McKinney, *Christian Education in the African American Church* (Valley Forge, Pennsylvania: Judson Press, 2003), 79.

² Cheri Fuller, *Opening Your Child's Nine Windows* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan, 1999), 16.

³ Ibid, 17.

⁴ Amos N. Wilson, *The Developmental Psychology of The Black Child* (New York: Africana Research Pub, 1978), 69.

⁵ Ibid, 42-43.

⁶ McKinney, 62.

⁷ Fuller, 19.

THE BAPTIST INFORMER

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Voice of 500,000 Baptists

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Dr. Priscilla A. Brodie, Executive Editor

Dr. Terry Thomas, Editor

Ms. Carol J. Smith, Managing Editor

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THEME: "By the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness..." (II Corinthians 6:7)

Charitable Gifting

By Dr. Archie D. Logan, Jr.
Executive Secretary-Treasurer

Greetings!

On April 3rd, 2003, the General Board of the General Baptist State Convention voted and approved the Charitable Gift Program offered exclusively by North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company. This is a major first step in establishing a permanent endowment for your Convention.

We are asking each Church to establish or be responsible for establishing at least three Charitable Gift Endowment Policies. The gift is an investment in the future of your Convention and Church work.

Imagine the financial impact that all of us can have on the future generations that pick up the work that we leave undone. Imagine how such a simple one-time act of obtaining a \$25,000 endowment policy can perpetuate the ministry of Christ. What effect could the

GBSC have on your community and our Nation, if the Convention had the financial resources to match the excellent leadership that God had provided us? The effect could be life changing.



Dr. Charles Bullock

Even in today's low interest rate environment, a matured endowment of \$150,000,000 (3 policies x \$25,000 x 2,000 Churches) would generate \$4.5 million dollars of income each year for God's work. Wouldn't you like to see your Convention take the lead in funding food programs to feed our poor; support clothes closets to clothe our naked; fund more fully programs that serve the elderly,

widowed, orphaned, imprisoned, homeless and those seeking adoption; provide low interest rate loans and grants to renovate or plant new Missionary Baptist churches; develop the J.J. Johnson Assembly site into a place where the teachings of Christ can reach beyond its borders; to provide college scholarships to all General Baptist youth; to increase

the number of well trained preachers to "serve this present age" by sending and financially assisting more of our men and women to attend Divinity school; to provide a benefits plan that covers every pastor and their spouse who serve our churches; and finally, to build a headquarters building that can more appropriately house the administration that support these ministries. Can you see it? Do you want it? Will you join me?

I have taken the first step of faith by personally funding a \$10,000

Endowment Policy for roughly \$1.30/day. This \$10,000 gift will be used to further the good work of the Convention. Please contact the General Baptist Foundation toll-free at 1-866-687-4631 and get your endowment started today. Everyone can participate. There are No Medical questions or Exams to take. I challenge you to make this gift your final measure of faithful stewardship, and to permanently mark in history your legacy of being a faithful servant.

Special Guests Highlight GBSC 136th Annual Session

By Reginald Wells, Program Chairperson

We are excited about our upcoming GBSC Annual Session to be held, October 26-30, 2003 at the Ebenezer Baptist Church, Charlotte, NC, Dr. Leonzo Lynch, Pastor. We have just confirmed that the Reverend Dr. Jesse V. Bottoms, Pastor of the Beulah Baptist Church, Poughkeepsie, New York will join us. He will be preaching the opening Sermon, Monday evening and lecturing on Tuesday. Dr. Bottoms is a nationally and internationally known Preacher/Pastor/Author. He and his spouse Jacquette Bottoms are the owners of Jubilee Christian Ministry. Their mission is to serve as a resource to busy ministers by providing biblical sermons, instructional manuals and study materials designed to strengthen the ministry and the church.

Also we are honored to have the Dr. Scruggs is a renowned preacher, pastor and author. He has authored four books: *Meditations on the Church; Baptist Preachers with Social Consciousness: A Comparative Study of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Harry Fosdick; God is Faithful and How to Study and Teach the Bible*. On September 9, 1999, Dr. Scruggs was elected Vice President At-Large of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. As a part of a new leadership team, he will help to bring vision, integrity, structure, and accountability to the Convention. He is married to the former Josephine Stewart Tipton.

Dr. Bottoms will be with us Monday and Tuesday for Preaching and Teaching Sessions. Dr. Scruggs will deliver the President's Banquet Address, Tuesday evening at 6:00PM.

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\$6.2 Million Earmarked for Renovations

By Dr. John H. Grant
Vice President At Large



Dr. John H.
Grant

General Board and Vice President At Large, served for more than three years as the Founding Chairman/President/CEO of the Eagle/Market Streets Development Corporation. In addition to serving as pastor of Asheville's historic Mount Zion

Portions of the following are excerpts from articles published on August 19 and August 22, 2003, in the Asheville Citizen-Times on "Building the Block". Dr. J. H. Grant, Chairman of the Convention's

Missionary Baptist Church since 1989. Dr. Grant also serves as President and CEO of the Mount Zion Community Development Corporation, both of which are located on The Block in downtown Asheville.

On Monday, August 18, 2003, Dr. Grant and other officials from the Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church, the Mount Zion Community Development Corporation, and the Eagle Market Streets Development Corporation, came together to announce a major redevelopment plan for the renovation of six properties in Asheville's historically African-American community, known as The Block. This announcement comes nearly 10 years after the formation of the Eagle/Market Streets Development Corporation, of which Dr. Grant served for more than three years as Founding Chairman/President/CEO. The Mount Zion Church also housed and anchored the Eagle/Market Streets

Corporation during those first years of its existence.

Eagle/Market Streets current president, Mr. James Geter, a deacon and member of Mount Zion, stated: "Nothing has come close to this kind of investment since the area was first developed in the early 1900s." The development site consists of 22 acres along Eagle and Market Streets to the south of Pack Square.

The plan calls for the renovation of six properties, three of which are owned by the Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church, which would be turned into more than 40 apartments with ground floor space for small businesses. The apartments would be rented at market rates of \$600 to \$700 a month.

Mount Zion and Eagle/Market Streets Corporation are working on financing options with the help of developers David Rogers & Associates of Huntersville, and with Enterprise Real Estate Services,

which worked on the development of the CNN Center in Atlanta. The corporation has about \$2 million in hand. The church has invested more than \$1 million for the plan. Enterprise Real Estate, a joint venture company, is helping to get another \$3 - 4 million for construction with a combination of historic renovation tax credits, grants, private money and federal loans. Enterprise, Rogers and Associates and the Eagle/Market Streets Corporation would lease Mount Zion's property and share ownership of the development.

The years leading to Monday's announcement were "a slow, incremental process," said Dr. John Grant, pastor of Mount Zion. "But there's a whole lot you have to do before you start turning dirt and seeing brick and mortar. I came onto the scene in 1989 and inherited the area. It was blighted and in need of redeveloping and that's been a major part of my ministry. We're all working together to make this community a success."

Pastoral Excellence Program

By Dr. Howard W. Parker, Jr.
First Vice President

The Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Convention is committed to helping churches extend their Christian witness to the ends of the earth, and because



Dr. Howard
Parker, Jr.

of a generous grant from the Lilly Endowment Inc., Lott Carey was able to create the Pastoral Excellence Program (PEP).

PEP is designed to help Pastors broaden their visions and build networks that will result in nurturing and

strengthening the person and work of Pastors, enhance the life and witness of the local church, and contributing to the up building of the Kingdom of God. This favorable conjuncture has given Pastors of the United States the opportunity to serve alongside the Host Pastors of Guyana (South America), Jamaica (West Indies), and Zimbabwe (Southern Africa) via internet participation and through group meetings during the Lott Carey Annual Session. Participating Pastors will be able to engage in service, learning, peer mentoring, and group processing, designed to enlarge and invigorate the presence and practice of pastoral ministry.

Lott Carey commits to providing all PEP participants with high quality experiences intended to broaden visions and build networks for energized and effective

pastoral ministry. It will structure international immersions and learning designed for the spiritual and natural growth in the person and ministries of Pastors.

PEP makes all arrangements and payment for international flights from ports of departure and arrival, as well as housing, food, and transportation in countries abroad. The Pastors are awarded with a Diploma/Certificate in Pastoral Ministry from the Baptist Theological Seminary in Zimbabwe upon satisfactory completion of PEP. In addition, PEP ensures the confidentiality and professional integrity of all research and publications related to PEP.

The participating Pastors commit to participate in all three international immersion experiences and domestic meetings convened during the Lott

PEP Pastoral Excellence Program

Carey Annual Sessions during participation in PEP (2003, 2004, 2005); complete all group assignments so as to contribute to the effectual work of the pastoral groups; participate with program colleagues respectfully and confidentially; respect cultural norms and honor laws of countries visited; and participate in the PEP Commencement in 2006.

GBSC Pastors have been selected to share in Lott Carey's PEP and some have already visited the foreign field. I have also been selected to be a part of this experience during the month of October 2003. I would like to ask that you keep the (20) Pastors (PEP Team 2) and the Pastoral Excellence Program Staff, lifted up in prayer.

May the Lord Continue to Bless You.

Second Vice-President

By Rev. Nilous M. Avery, II - M. Div.
2nd Vice-President

"To all in (the General Baptist Family) who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ" (Rom. 1:7, NIV). As we prepare for our 136th Annual Session gathering in Charlotte October 26th - 30th, I continually pause to thank God for all of you, "because your faith is being reported all over the world" (Rom. 1:8b).

With a heart full of gratitude and a mind that is made up to go on in the Lord, God gets the glory as you endeavor to continue in Christ's mandate to be willing witnesses, warriors, and workers locally, regionally, nationally, and "to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8b).

I repeat my previous observation and assessment that this convention stands on the threshold of blessings abundant through the power of God. Our mountain-top view of promised-land possessions should not result in a stagnant spirituality. God has promised empowerment for those who are faithful. General Baptists, we can and must experience the power that is ours in Christ Jesus.

With the ongoing conflict in Iraq, many critics and skeptics are continuing to question one of the primary reasons that was given for going to war: weapons of mass destruction (WMD). Where are they? Was the threat of WMD's a smoke-screen for other hidden agendas? While these questions are being raised, let us pray

continually for our women and men of the armed forces (and their families) who bravely answer the call of their country.

We must become **Weapons of Mass Construction!** (borrowing a term I have heard several times). We are called to be kingdom builders, workers in the construction of Christian disciples in the home, church, community, country, and the world at large. Our mission is to "go, teach, baptize, and teach." This enables believers worldwide to become equipped for Christian warfare.

The detonating power that is ours in God through Jesus the Christ is inspiring, transforming, and life changing. We are the weapons. The power/presence/provision of God, the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the indwelling of the Holy Spirit serve as our *trinitrotoluene*, our TNT!

So, my Christian sisters and brothers, load up your missions and outreach groups with Holy TNT! Become **Weapons of Mass Construction**, and ensure the detonation of kingdom building throughout the world as Christ's power becomes tangible and visible in our lives.

Our opportunity to be witnesses of God's transforming power globally is through the Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Convention. We are in position to impact the world as **Weapons of Mass Construction**. Accept the challenge today. You may contact me at: (704) 637-0954 (c); (704) 633-6227 (h); (704) 637-1137 (fax); or E-mail: averyrevkin@aol.com.

"The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you" (1 Cor. 16:23).



Rev. Nilous
Avery, II

"Serving the Present Age..."

By Executive Secretary-Treasurer Brodie

May we express our appreciation to God and all of you who shared so graciously with the Woman's Convention this immediate past fiscal year.

May we express thanks to God and Pastor Gardin and Elizabeth Baptist Church who served as

Dr. Priscilla Brodie

hosts to the Family Missions Conference held Saturday, September 27, 2003.

2003 Youth Evangelism Conference

On Saturday, November 1, 2003, at 9:00 a.m., the Annual Youth Evangelism Conference of the Woman's Baptist Home & Foreign Missionary Convention

will convene at the Raleigh Civic and Convention Center, hosted by Franklin County Missionary Union, Reverend Dazale Kearney, President.

Youth (along with supervisors, pastors, and parents) of churches, union, auxiliaries, and district conferences should come to this event. Youth need to bring their Bibles and liberal offerings, and pray to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Supervisor Ellender LeMay and the youth department envision a very exciting session. The session will include singing, praying, youth speaking, sharing of life experiences, preaching and teaching regarding evangelism from a youth's point of view.



Dr. Julius McDonald

Institutes

Last year many of you participated in institutes under the auspices of the Woman's Convention. It is now time to begin Christian missionary studies for the new year's institutes. The books recommended for this year's study are: The Story Of The Christian Church (Seniors and Young Adults); Pure Joy (Youth 9-11); God's Fire For Elijah (Youth 6-8); Come To Jesus (Youth 1-5). Persons/organizations interested in having these studies may contact the Woman's Convention for these books and also for certified persons as instructors for the institute.

Institute Workers' Clinic

On Saturday, October 11, 2003,

at 10:00 a.m., at Baptist Headquarters, will be the annual workshop session for and with the corps of WBH&FMC certified institute workers. All of the certified persons are requested to come and share in this event.

Prayer Month for Christian Education

October is the month set aside to emphasize prayer for the Shaw Divinity School and Shaw University.

Baptist World Day of Prayer

Baptist women across the world will gather at different locations to pray on Monday, November 3, 2003. This prayer ministry is under the auspices of the Baptist World Alliance (BWA) Women's Department. Free prayer materials, while quantities last, are available here at the office.

POSITION OPEN: SECRETARY

The Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention, Auxiliary to GBSC, is accepting applications for a Secretary. Applicants should meet the following qualifications:

- Have completed high school and have had several business courses beyond high school
- Have knowledge of business English
- Have efficient knowledge of computer operations, especially word processing and spreadsheets
- Have good typing speed and accuracy
- Have the ability to relate to people
- Have team spirit

The salary is negotiable; good benefits.

For further information and application, please write to:

The Executive Secretary-Treasurer

Woman's Baptist Home & Foreign Missionary Convention of North Carolina
Auxiliary to GBSC • P. O. Box 1818 • Raleigh, NC 27602

Telephone (919) 833-4823 * Fax (919) 833-7599

Email: WBHFMCC@WBH-FMC.Org

POSITION OPEN: BOOKKEEPER/ACCOUNTANT

The Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention, Auxiliary to GBSC, is accepting applications for a Bookkeeper/Accountant. Applicants should meet the following qualifications:

- Have an Associate or Bachelors degree in bookkeeping and/or accounting
- Have efficient knowledge of computer operations in terms of spreadsheets and general ledgers and any other bookkeeping/Accounting procedures
- Have adequate typing skills
- Have ability to relate to people
- Have team spirit

The salary is negotiable; good benefits.

For further information and application, please write to:

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POSITION OPEN: ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

The Woman's Baptist Home & Foreign Missionary Convention, Auxiliary to GBSC, is accepting applications for an Administrative Assistant. Applicants should meet the following requirements:

- Have an Associate or Bachelors degree, preferably in Business Management (some courses in Christian Education) with some years of experience
- Have communicative and organizational skills
- Be able to maintain lists, schedule(s)
- Be able to work with minimal supervision
- Have proficiency in business English
- Have knowledge of preparing and reporting state and federal taxes preparation
- Have proficient computer skills
- Have a pleasant personality and telephone skills
- Have team spirit

Salary is negotiable, good benefits.

For further information and application, please write to:

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2002-2003 Annual Report of the Christian Education Coordinator GBSC

Submitted By Portia Brandon, M.Div.
Christian Education Coordinator

To the President of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc., Dr. Charles T. Bullock, Executive Secretary-Treasurer, Dr. Archie



Portia
Brandon

D. Logan, Jr., Executive Committee, General Board, and the General Baptist State Convention family:

This Annual Report provides a thorough account of my work over the past year.

The report

includes two parts:

Essential duties: Responsible for overall Christian education ministries at GBSC, including:

- Planning, developing, implementing, and educational opportunities for all ages, including special or seasonal programs as needed;
- Evaluating and updating existing ministries and assisted in introducing new ministries, as appropriate;
- Training teachers for Sunday School and other educational ministries;
- Acquiring and producing curriculum resources and Christian education supplies for all age groups (2003 Christian Education Manual and 2003 Sunday School Manual);
- Assist in managing the Christian Education assist budget; and
- Serving as a member of the Christian Education committee.

Train and work with volunteers in registration during all sessions and conferences;

Ex-officio of all GBSC Elections; Ex-officio of GBSC Program Committee; GBSC Christian Education Committee; Produce the following Christian Education Publications: 2003 Christian Education Manual and 2003 Sunday School Manual; Submit monthly article to the Baptist Informer; Responsible for planning, organizing conferences which cover the following auxiliaries, and sessions of the General Baptist State Convention: MLK, Jr. Banquet, Congress One Day Session, Usher's One Day Session, Minister's Council, all VBS Clinic, Annual Evangelism Conference, Music Conference, Mid-Year Session, Oratorical Contest, Trinity Session, Crime & Incarceration Conference and GBSC Annual Session.

Conference Planner for all of GBSC Conferences and Sessions which includes:

- Selecting hotels for each conference and

session. Meet with hotel sales manager to determine hotel rooms, negotiate prices, which includes two site visits to the hotel.

- Confirm all contract forms between hotels and GBSC.
- Compile GBSC master billing and send it to the hotel.
- Notify the president, officers, vice presidents, past presidents, and staff of the hotel, arrival and departure dates.
- Last site visit, confirm rooming list with registration desk and procedure for check in. Double check rooms for VIPs and those special needs.
- Discuss with front desk appropriate information to be included on site marquee board.
- If there is a banquet, meet with caterers to select food, negotiate dinner prices, room set up, colors, determine banquet set-up (head table) requirements.

Travel Activities

- 9/18/02 – Instructor, Workshop “Building a Church Leadership Team”, Ebenezer, Rocky Mount
- 9/27/02 – Presenter, Workshop “Baptist Doctrine & Leadership Job Description”, Union Assoc., Fayetteville
- 9/28/02 – Presenter, Workshop “Church Etiquette”, Tar River Assoc., Rocky Mount
- 10/6/02 – Presenter – Workshop “A Sunday School That is 24/7”, Deep River, Sanford
- 10/7/02 – GBSC (Election Year) Annual Session, Select hotels, make all necessary hotel reservations for messengers. Meet with Cumberland County Civic Center, determine room setups and notify site of additional requirements
- 10/10/02 – Represent (greetings) GBSC Middle District Assoc., Wilmington
- 10/14/02 – Presenter, Workshop “The New Hiscox Guide for Baptist Churches”, High Point Assoc., High Point
- 10/17/02 – Presenter, Workshop “Using Christian Ed in Partnership for Church Growth”, United Shiloh Assoc.
- 10/18/02 – KEMBA Assoc. “Election Update”, Warsaw
- 10/20/02 – Keynote Speaker, Homecoming Service, Lee's Cross Rd. MBC, Johnston
- 10/21/02 – GBSC Annual Session, Mt. Olive MBC, finalize facility arrangements, deliver registration packet, train volunteers for registration, meet with hotel manager, coordinate meeting logistics, and confirm rooming list.
- 10/22/02 – Presenter, Workshop “Biblical Basic of Christian Ed”, Tar River Assoc., Middlesex
- 10/23/02 – Presenter, Workshop “Baptist Doctrine”, West Roanoke, Elizabeth City
- 10/26-31/02 – GBSC Annual Session, Fayetteville

11/10/02 – Speaker, Missionary Day, St. Luke MBC, Salisbury

11/11-15/02 – Presenter, Workshop “Strategies for Building A Great Commission Sunday School”, Ebenezer Assoc., Kings Mountain

11/19/02 – Presenter, Workshop “Ingredients of Growing Sunday Schools”, Galilee MBC, Smithfield

11/23/02 – Represent GBSC (greetings) “Make A Difference Day”, Wallace

12/4-6/02 – National Baptist Convention “Winter Board Meeting”, Nashville, TN Certified Teachers Meeting

12/19/02 – GBSC Executive Meeting & General Board Meeting, Raleigh

12/21/02 – Presenter, Workshop “Huntley's Manual For Every Baptist” (Huntley), Mt. Vernon, Durham

12/28/02 – Presenter, Workshop “Christian Education in the Local”, Reedy Creek Assoc., Roanoke Rapids

1/4/03 – Presenter, Workshop “Purpose Driven Church” (Warren), Bear Creek Assoc.

1/6/03 – Presenter, “Directing Christian Education” (Choun), Reedy Creek Assoc., Nashville

1/8/03 – Presenter, Workshop “How to Have A Dynamic Youth Ministry”, Rowan Assoc., Winston Salem

1/15/03 – Registration, Congress One Day Session Training, Dr. Headen, Greensboro

1/18/03 – Registration, Usher's One Day Session, Reidsville, Rev. Chesson

1/28/03 – Represent GBSC Funeral, Auburn, NC

1/29/03 – Presenter, “2003 Christian Education Manual” (Brandon), Sycamore Hill, Greenville, NC

2/1-2/03 – Presenter, Workshop “The Meaning of Church Membership” (Valley Forge), Rowan Assoc., Greensboro

2/6-8/03 – Preparation of Congress One Day Session, Winston Salem

3/1/03 – Speaker, Woman Day, New Bethel, Rolesville

3/2/03 – Presenter, Sunday School Workshop, “Getting Teachers and Keeping Them”, United Shiloh, Oxford

3/3/03 – Presenter, Workshop “Church Officers”, Old Eastern Assoc., Washington

3/4/03 – Sycamore Hill – Mid-Year Training, Greenville

3/5/03 – Presenter, Workshop “The Work of the Church”, Reedy Creek Assoc. Institute, Rocky Mount

3/6/03 – Registration, Minister's Council, Raleigh

3/13/03 – Presenter, Workshop “Sunday School for 21st Century”, Oxford

3/15/03 – Presenter, Workshop “The Work of Deacon & Deaconess”, Nashville

3/16/03 – Speaker, Woman's Day, Compassionate MBC, Raleigh

3/21-22/03 – Presenter, Workshop

“The Work of the Church: Getting the Job Done in Boards and Committees”, New Covenant Assoc., Virginia

3/21/03 – Presenter, Workshop

“Church Adm. for the 21st Century”, Wilson Association

3/22/03 – Presenter, Workshop “The Church Teaching Ministry”, Rowan Assoc., Winston Salem

3/23/03 – Presenter, Workshop

“Trends in Sunday School for the 21st Century”, Rowan Assoc., Salisbury

3/28/03 – Presenter, Workshop

“Church Adm. for the 21st Century”, Juniper Level, Raleigh

3/30/03 – Presenter, Workshop

“Polity and Practice in Baptist Church”, Old Eastern, Falkland

3/28-29/03 – Presenter, “Adults In Sunday Schools”, National Congress, United Institutional, Greensboro

4/1-2/03 – Presenter, Workshop

“Every Day Evangelist”, Rowan Assoc., Greensboro

4/3/03 – Presenter, Workshop “Work of Deacon & Deaconess in the Church”, Henderson

4/5/03 – Presenter, Workshop

“Directing Christian Education”, KEMBA Assoc., Warsaw

4/6-11/03 – Registration, Annual Statewide Evangelism Conference, Union Baptist, Winston Salem

4/22/03 – Site visit Sycamore Hill Mid-Year Session

4/25/03 – Speaker, Woman's Conference, “Queen Esther”, Fayetteville

4/26/03 – Speaker, Woman's Conference, “Look the Part, Live the Part”, Jones Chapel, Lumberton

4/27/03 – Speaker, Woman's Day, Riley Hill, Wendell

5/4-9/03 – Registration, GBSC Mid-Year Session, Greenville

5/13-15/03 – Speaker, KEMBA Assoc. Institute, Warsaw

5/16/03 – Speaker, Woman's Conference, West Durham, Durham

5/24-25/03 – Speaker, Woman's Day, Christian Chapel, Rose Hill

5/28/03 – Speaker, KEMBA Assoc., “The Work of Christian Education”, Warsaw

6/12-13/03 – Presenter, Workshop

“Church Officers”, Raeford

6/14/03 – Presenter, Workshop

“Church Officers”, 1st Baptist, Fuquay

6/25/03 – President's Leadership Summit, Winston Salem

6/26/03 – Trinity Training & Site visit, Charlotte

6/27-28/03 – Speaker, Woman's Conference “Divine Diva: A Virtuous Woman”, Rev. Faulkner, South Boston, VA

Submitted by Dianne Newell
President Congress of Christian Education

In an effort to expose our Convention body to the literary work of GBSC pas-



Diane Newell

tors, ministers and laypersons, a special feature was added to the 3rd Trinity Convention – a **Book Signing Event**, which was held on Friday, July 18, 2003, at the Second Calvary Baptist Church, Charlotte, NC. Authors who

were present and their work shared included **Dr. Benjamin Hinton**, D. Min. Senior Pastor of Tabernacle Baptist Church, Gastonia, NC., **Reverend Clifford Matthews, Jr.**, Pastor of Saint Luke Missionary Baptist Church, Charlotte, NC, and **Mrs. Evelyn McLeod**, Chairperson Deacon's Wives Fellowship of the WBH&FM Convention of GBSC, NC, Inc.

Guest Lecturer

"Equipping Church Leaders for Effective Ministry"

Reverend Dr. Benjamin Hinton Biographical Profile

Dr. Hinton is a native of Hamilton, Georgia. He is a 1981 graduate of Harris County High School. He holds an Associate Degree from Truett-McConnell College in Cleveland, GA in 1985. He is a 1985 Graduate of Piedmont College in Demorest, Georgia, where he received a B.A. in Psychology and Sociology. In 1988, he received a Master of Divinity Degree from the Morehouse School of Religion and the Interdenominational Theological Center. Dr. Hinton also earned his Doctor of Ministry Degree from Morehouse School of Religion and (ITC) in 1994.

He served as the pastor of the Friendship Baptist Church in Toccoa, Georgia for over seven years. He is presently serving in his 12th year at the Tabernacle Baptist Church in Gastonia, North Carolina, where the church has experienced tremendous growth and transformation.

Dr. Hinton serves on the Executive Committee of Evangelism for the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, where he has lectured on numerous occasions. He has preached in the General Baptist State Convention and the Congress of Christian Education of North Carolina.

He serves on the faculty of the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education, an auxiliary to the National

GBSC Authors Showcased

130th Annual Session of the Congress of Christian Education

Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. He has lectured in the Youth Division, the President's Regional Convention, and the National Baptist Convention Institute.

Dr. Hinton is also actively involved in numerous religious and community organizations within Gaston County and the State of North Carolina. To name a few, he serves as:

- Executive Council of the Pastor's Consortium – Treasurer
- President of V.I.C.T.O.R.Y. Inc. (Community Development Corporation) of T.B.C.
- Executive Council of Gaston County Progressive Action Coalition
- Instructor of the Pastors and Ministers Class for the Gaston Missionary Baptist Association's Training Institute
- Former first Vice Moderator of the Gaston County Missionary Baptist Association
- Former member of the Executive Council of the Interdenominational Council of Local Churches

As an anointed leader, he is well sought out as a preacher, evangelist, teacher and lecturer. He has preached in over 16 different mainline denominations. Dr. Hinton has received numerous awards

and recognitions for outstanding leadership and achievement which include: Outstanding Young Men of America for 1986, 1988, and 1992, NAACP Leadership Award, Gaston County Community Service Award, and others.

He is married to the former Tangela White of Macon, Georgia. Minister Tangela Hinton also serves as a partner in ministry with him as Director of Christian Education of the church. They have two sons, Benjamin Samuel, II and Nathaniel Robert.

Above all, Dr. Hinton is an anointed man of God, who has been called and commissioned to proclaim Christ's salvific redemption to all humanity.

Dr. Hinton is the founder of E-Team Ministries "Equipping Leaders for Kingdom Living and Service". His E-Team Ministry includes **Exalting, Equipping, Evangelizing, Educating and Empowering**. Dr. Hinton served as guest lecturer leading the Leadership Development Seminar. The focus Dr. Hinton brought to this seminar was "Transformation Leadership: Moving Beyond Traditionalism". He stated, "God is calling on all leaders in the body of Christ to serve as **Change Agents** and

Impact Players." He continues to say, "Change Agents and Impact Players are the key leaders of the ministry team of the church. These persons serve as ministers (ministry leaders, deacons, trustees, armor bearers, presidents, department chairpersons, coordinators, teachers, Sunday School superintendents, volunteers, staff and etc.) exercising their spiritual gifts to effectively execute ministry through the local church. Dr. Hinton's **Introduction Manual to New Testament Theology** is available at the GBSC Bookstore.

Guest Instructor

Reverend Clifford Matthews, Jr., Pastor, St. Luke Missionary Baptist Church, Charlotte, NC

Class: "Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts"
Textbook: **Discovering Ministry Class #301**

Reverend Matthews' training manual **Discovering Ministry Class #301** was made available to all the participants of the class. C.L.A.S.S. 301 is an acronym for "Christian Life and Service Seminar". It is the third class of basic classes taught at Reverend Matthews' church. The pre-requisite classes are **Discovering Membership – 101** and **Discovering Maturity – 201**. The introductory statement in manual says "You must first be committed to membership in a church family and committed to the habits for spiritual maturity before you are ready for ministry. **Membership and Maturity** are the foundation for ministry". "Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts" class' purpose was embodied in the 2002 – 2006 Congress Theme: "Equipping the Saints for the Work of the Ministry", as God has given pastors and teachers to prepare God's people for work, so the body of Christ may be built up. Ephesians 4:11-12.

The principle undergirding for the class as described by Reverend Matthews is that, "God is consistent in His plan for each of our lives. He would not give us inborn talents and temperaments, spiritual gifts, and all sorts of life experiences and then not use them." By reviewing and studying the factors of the following, you will discover the ministry, the unique way God intends for you to serve Him. What the Bible Says about Ministry

- How Has God Shaped Me for Ministry
- How To Discover My Ministry
- How To Discover Your Gifts

Participants in the class were given an evaluation designed to help identify and develop their God-given spiritual gifts.

Scripture References and Scripture Gift Definitions were discovered using the Wagner-Modified Houts Questionnaire provided by Reverend Matthews.

SPIRITUAL GIFT DEFINITIONS AND SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

The following pages contain suggested definitions of the spiritual gifts. While not meant to be dogmatic or final these definitions and supporting Scriptures do correspond to characteristics of the gifts as expressed in the Wagner-Modified Houts Questionnaire.

Administration

The gift of administration is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to understand clearly the immediate and long-range goals of a particular unit of the Body of Christ and to devise and execute effective plans for the accomplishment of those goals.

Luke 14:28-30 Acts 6:1-7 1 Corinthians 12:28 Titus 1:5

Apostleship

The ability to assume and exercise general leadership over a number of churches, with an extraordinary authority in spiritual matters which is spontaneously recognized and appreciated by those churches.

Acts 15:1-2 1 Corinthians 12:28 11 Corinthians 12:12 Galatians 2:7-10 Ephesians 3:1-9 Ephesians 4:11-14

Craftsmanship/Art

The ability to use one's hands, thoughts and mind to further the kingdom of God through artistic, creative means. People with this gift may also serve to lead others in forming their abilities in this area. The gift may also be used in the areas of maintenance, care and upkeep of the church ground for the benefit and beautification of God's kingdom here on earth.

Exodus 30:22-25 Exodus 31:3-11 11 Chronicles 34:9-13 Acts 18:2-3

Discernment

The gift of discerning of spirits is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to know with assurance whether certain behavior purported to be of God is in reality divine, human or Satanic.

Matthew 16:21-23 Acts 5:1-11 Acts 16:16-18 1 Corinthians 12:10 1 John 4:1-6

Evangelism

The gift of evangelism is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to share the gospel with unbelievers in such a way that men and women become Jesus' disciples and responsible members of the Body of Christ.

Acts 8:5-6 Acts 8:26-40 Acts 14:21 Acts 21:8 Ephesians 4:11-14 2 Timothy 4:5

Exhortation

The gift of exhortation is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to minister words of comfort, consolation, encouragement and counsel to other members of the Body in such a way that they feel helped and healed.

Acts 14:22 Romans 12:8 1 Timothy 4:13 Hebrews 10:25

Faith

The gift of faith is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to discern with extraordinary confidence the will and purposes of God for his work.

Acts 11:22-24 Acts 27:21-25 Romans 4:18-21 1 Corinthians 12:9 Hebrews 11

Giving

The gift of giving is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to contribute their material resources to the work of the Lord with liberality and cheerfulness.

Mark 12:41-44 Romans 12:8 2 Corinthians 8:1-7 2 Corinthians 9:2-8

Healing

The gift of healing is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to serve as human intermediaries through whom it please God to cure illness and restore health apart from the use of natural means.

Acts 3:1-10 Acts 5:12-16 Acts 9:32-35 Acts 28:7-10 1 Corinthians 12:10, 28

SHOWCASE, Cont'd From Page 7

A Mustard Seed Author Evelyn C. McLean

Evelyn C. McLean, a breast cancer survivor, is no stranger to the General Baptist family, as she serves as Chairperson of the Deacon's Wives Fellowship of the Women's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention of GBSC, NC, Inc. She has been miraculously healed of cancer now for six years. *A Mustard Seed* is her testimony of her faith and God's healing power. Mrs. McLean takes advantage of every opportunity to share her testimony with others through speaking engagements and book signings.

As guest author during the 130th Annual Session of the Congress of Christian Education, she committed to donating a portion of the proceeds of her book sales to the GBSC Congress of Christian Education.

About The Author:

Evelyn Carter McLean is the fourth of eleven children born to poor sharecroppers in rural Sampson County, North Carolina, during the late 1940's. Evelyn learned the importance of faith, courage and a strong work ethic from her parents and others in the small Mount Pleasant farming community.

Confessing Christ as a young child, she joined the Mount Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church and fellowshiped there until she wed Harold E. McLean on July 29, 1967. Her faith in Christ engaged her to develop a strong compassion for her fellow man. Evelyn loved to tell stories to her brothers and sisters as a child and eventually began to write about her childhood adventures. Suffering the loss of her beloved mother in the fall of 1992 intensified Evelyn's desire to share with others her childhood experiences. "The Blue Dress", a short story playfully depicting sibling rivalry, was published in the fall of 1999, which became her first literary success.

Evelyn faced the great challenge of balancing career, family and personal pursuits. She received recognition as an excellent employee, obtained academic fulfillment, by earning a college degree, and received accolades as an officer of the Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Mission Convention of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc. Yet, she found no endeavor more fulfilling than being a successful wife and mother. Evelyn thought it only appropriate to sacrifice her personal comfort to ensure that the couple's three children, Leslie, Cornelia, and Harold, were properly reared and supervised.

After successfully rearing her family and becoming the doting grandmother of James, Brandon, Anthony, (deceased), and

Denisha, Evelyn began to pursue her personal interests and became more involved in community and church organizations, including serving as President of the Senior Missionary Department of Lewis Chapel Missionary Baptist Church in Fayetteville, North Carolina. She enjoys traveling across the state and nation to increase awareness and to encourage others working in the mission field. With the strong support of the Church's Missionary Department, Evelyn has been instrumental in spearheading the annual preparation of hygiene, food and education kits for migrant farm workers in the southeastern part of the state. During her tenure as President, she has led the department in creating resources for children whose mothers are confined to North Carolina Women's Central Prison. Evelyn works tirelessly and is committed to serving God through helping her fellowman.

During the fall of 1997, she was diagnosed with breast cancer. Together, she and her husband faced the uncertainty of the diagnosis with faith and prayer. The difficulty of surgery, chemotherapy, and radiation attempted to test her faith — a faith inherited from her parents, a faith cultivated by an enduring marriage, and a faith secured with the Blood of Jesus Christ.

"By His stripes we are healed."

Evelyn knew the benefits provided her in the scripture were real. Her healing would come. God was inclined to perform the healing; October 2001 marked Evelyn's fourth year "cancer free".

There is a Balm in Gilead. There is healing power in the hem of His garment. If we have faith as a mustard seed, we can say unto this mountain, move, and it shall be done.

"A Mustard Seed" is a testimony of God's miraculous healing power and never ending mercy.

Out of the depths of her heritage, Evelyn McLean vividly portrays how faith, the size of a mustard seed, was instilled in her and blossomed to sustain her through a battle with cancer. In the face of life's uncertainties and seemingly overwhelming challenges, *A Mustard Seed* is a source of inspiration and reassuring hope.

Janifer S. Campbell
Director of Christian Education
Lewis Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, Fayetteville, North Carolina
Dean, General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc.
Congress of Christian Education

I have witnessed the Lord work with Evelyn as she matured in the faith. God anointed this writing project and I know it will be a blessing for many.

Lorine Cole McLeod
President Emeritus
United Order of Tents, Southern District #1

Helps

The gift of helps is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to invest the talents they have in the life and ministry of other members of the Body, thus enabling those others to increase the effectiveness of their own spiritual gifts.
Mark 15: 40-41 Luke 8: 2-3 Acts 9:36 Romans 16:1-2 1 Corinthians 12:28

Hospitality

The gift of hospitality is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to provide an open house and warm welcome to those in need of food and lodging.
Acts 16:14-15 Romans 12:9-13 Romans 16:23 Hebrews 13:1-2 1 Peter 4:9

Intercession

The gift of intercession is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to pray for extended periods of time on a regular basis and see frequent and specific answers to their prayers, to a degree much greater than that which is expected of the average Christian.
Luke 22:41-44 Acts 12:12 Colossians 1:9-12 Colossians 4:12-13 1 Timothy 2: 1-2 James 5:14-16

Interpretation

The gift of interpretation is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to make known in the vernacular the message of one who speaks in tongues.
1 Corinthians 12: 10, 30 1 Corinthians 14:13 1 Corinthians 14: 26-28

Knowledge

The gift of knowledge is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to discover, accumulate, analyze and clarify information and ideas which are pertinent to the well-being of the Body.
Acts 5:1-11 1 Corinthians 2:14 1 Corinthians 12:8 2 Corinthians 11:6 Colossians 2:2-3

Leadership

The gift of leadership is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to set goals in accordance with God's purpose for the future and to communicate these goals to others in such a way that they voluntarily and harmoniously work together to accomplish those goals for the glory of God.
Luke 9:51 Acts 15: 7-11 Romans 12:8 1 Timothy 5:17 Hebrews 13:17

Mercy

The gift of mercy is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to feel genuine empathy and compassion for individuals (both Christian and non-Christian) who suffer distressing physical, mental or emotional problems, and to translate that compassion into cheerfully done deeds which reflect Christ's love and alleviate the suffering.
Matthew 20:29-34 Matthew 25: 34-40 Mark 9:41 Luke 10:33-35 Acts 11:28-30 Acts 16:33-34 Romans 12:8

Miracles

The gift of miracles is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to serve as human intermediaries through whom it please God to perform powerful acts that are perceived by observers to have altered the ordinary course of nature.
Acts 9:36-42 Acts 19: 11-20 Acts 20:7-12 Romans 15: 18-19 1 Corinthians 12: 10, 28 2 Corinthians 12:12

Missions

The gift of missions is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to minister whatever other spiritual gifts they have in a second culture.
Acts 8:4 Acts 12:2-3 Acts 22:21 Romans 10:15 1 Corinthians 9: 19-23

Music

The ability to use one's voice in the singing of praises to the Lord for the benefit of others, or to play a musical instrument to praise the Lord and for the benefit of others.
Deuteronomy 31:22 1 Samuel 16:16 1 Chronicles 16:41-42 11 Chronicles 34:12 Psalm: 150

Pastoring

The gift of pastoring is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to assume a long-term personal responsibility for the spiritual welfare of a group of believers.
John 10:1-8 Ephesians 4:11-14 1 Timothy 3:1-7 1 Peter 5:1-3

Prophecy

The gift of prophecy is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to receive and communicate an immediate message of God to His people through a divinely anointed utterance.
Luke 7:26 Acts 15:32 Acts 21:9-11 Romans 12:6 1 Corinthians 12: 10, 28 Ephesians 4: 11-14

Service

The gift of service is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to identify the unmet needs involved in a task related to God's work, and to make use of available resources to meet those needs and help accomplish the desired results.
Acts 6:1-7 Roman 12:7 Galatians 6: 2, 10 2 Timothy 1:16-18 Titus 3:14

Teaching

The gift of teaching is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to communicate information relevant to the health and ministry of the Body and its members in such a way that others will learn.
Act 18:24-28 Acts 20:20-21 Romans 12:71 Ephesians 4:11-14

Tongues

The gift of tongues is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to speak to God in a language they have never learned and/or receive and communicate an immediate message of God to His people through a divinely anointed utterance in a language they never learned.
Mark 16:17 Acts 2: 1-13 Acts 10:44-46 Acts 19:1-7 1 Corinthians 12: 10, 28 1 Corinthians 14:13-19

Wisdom

The gift of wisdom is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to know the mind of the Holy Spirit in such a way as to receive insight into how given knowledge may best be applied to specific needs arising in the Body of Christ.
Acts 6: 3, 10 1 Corinthians 2: 1-13 1 Corinthians 12:8 James 1: 5, 6 2 Peter 3: 15, 16

REPORT, Cont'd from page 6

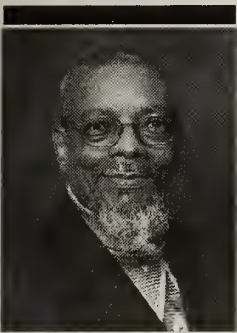
7/10-11/03 – Planner meeting,
Progressive National Convention, Charlotte
7/12-13/03 – Presenter, Workshop
"Effective Youth Leaders", Ahoskie
7/15-20/03 – Registration, Trinity
Session, Charlotte
7/22-26/03 – Adult Instructor,
"Huntley Manual For Every Baptist", High
Point Assoc. Institute, Greensboro
7/28-30/03 – WBH & FMC, Winston
Salem
8/1-2/03 – Presenter, Workshop
"Huntley Manual For Every Baptist", Trent
River, Jacksonville
8/3-8/03 – Assisted Mayfield

Memorial BC in hosting Progressive
National Convention, Charlotte
8/14/03 – Training Site visit Annual
Session in October, with Hilton University
& Ebenezer MBC
8/23/03 – Presenter, Workshop
"Hiscox Guide for Baptist Churches",
Manhollow MBC, Hampstead
8/30/03 – Presenter, Workshop
"Baptist Doctrine", Tar River Assoc.,
Rocky Mount
8/31/03 – Presenter, Workshop
"Church Leadership", Rock Hill, Winston
Salem
We solicit your prayer and coopera-
tion as we continue to help churches win
souls for Christ.

Ten Commandments of Human Relations

Submitted by Deacon John Gladden

As Laymen or a Lay Person we must do some shopping so that we can do



Deacon John Gladden

The Grace of God will give us salvation.

We must pray always to help keep us from sin. When we pray and pray right, we will have peace and joy. We must have Jesus Christ only always, so that we can serve this present age, for we have God-given power to improve things if we use it.

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them (Ephesians 2:10). We have the power to improve our environment. Each of us can make an important difference in our world, and with God's help we can meet and overcome any challenges facing our world.

Brother Laymen, just as the still depths of the ocean are undisturbed by surface waves – within you, in the still depths of your being, God brings pure peace. This pure peace and life within you are undisturbed by experiences; therefore, as we take our stand with God,

we remain stable and steady.

You let go of any thought of judgement and you pray to become non-judgmental and fear minded. You let the divine life flow through former critical thought processes. You surrender your need to provide answers, you relax, you let go, and you let God's life of good be expressed in a variety of ways in all of life.

As Laymen and Men of God you must know that God's presence is with you. Wherever you are, God supplies you with all you need. God is also with those that are choosing other paths from your own.

Jesus said "If you are ashamed of Me, I will be ashamed of you before my Father." Not ashamed, yes,

yes, ooh, yes, I do love God. He is my source of existence and savior. He keeps me functioning each and every day. Without Him I will be nothing, without Him, I am nothing. But with Him, I can do all things through Christ that strengthens me. (Philippians 4:13.)

Laymen could not possibly have a greater task, a more urgent mission, or a more critical work than that of helping young men to find themselves and to rediscover and reclaim the spiritual heritage and the moral legacy of our fathers.

Every Laymen League program at the church, the state level, or the association and even the national level should already have an evangelical effort to reach, reclaim, and redeem our young men.

Some of the truly outstanding figures in the Old and New Testaments were of

good faith in God. They were not like most of us, they triumph to the Glory of God. Let us take a look at a few who had no fear. Consider Abraham, Moses, David, Elijah, Paul, Job, John, Joseph, Peter, Jeremiah, Ester, Joshua, Daniel – these were some of those that had faith in God and did His will.

It is our time to get up and serve this present age, our calling to fulfill. The Laymen are the churches' educational organization, which provides Christian education for adult men, young men and boys. The Laymen League is the organization of men in the Baptist Church. It is

the channel through which Laymen make best and most effective contribution to the life and work of the church. It is an organized effort

for the enlistment of men in the work of the church. It is an effort by saved men to reach unsaved men for God, for Christ, and His Church.

The Laymen League is a movement of Christian men to christianize the community in which they live - their city, their state and nation. The Laymen League is a training center and service agency for growing Baptist men and boys.

Laymen should not judge by appearance but judge with right judgement (John 7:24). Are the situations in your life appearing as negative? Rest assured that a higher order, a divine order can be active in your life. Facts change, and new channels of God's good are opened to you when you turn your attention from total focus on your problems to God's ever present help.

Change is constant. You realize that just as temperature and weather conditions vary, so do the conditions of your life. If you're experiencing a lot of problems, you realize they are not permanent, but instead are transitory. If you can see it, know with God's help it has come to pass.

From day to day, circumstances in life change. Today is different than yesterday, and tomorrow holds new opportunities to learn and grow.

Although facts change, God's order is eternal and changeless. Divine order includes the higher order of abundant health and prosperity. God's order is a higher order of loving relationships and joy in everyday living.

God has given us all that we will ever need to accomplish our unlimited potential. It is up to us to tap into these resources so that we may give expression to the unlimited talents and abilities given to us by God.

Laymen should not judge by appearance but judge with right judgement.

John 7:24

If a seeming obstacle appears before you, you remain confident in your own ability, for you know that God has provided you with overcoming power. You know that no person or situation can keep your good from you, as you use your God given abilities. You are blessed by living within a higher order of God's good.

A Layman should follow the Ten Commandments of Human Relations.

1. Speak to people – there is nothing so nice as a cheerful word of greeting.
2. Smile at people – it takes 72 muscles to frown, only 14 to smile.
3. Call people by name – the sweetest music to anyone's ears is the sound of his own name.
4. Be friendly and helpful – if you would have friends, be a friend.
5. Be cordial – speak and act as if everything you do is a genuine pleasure.
6. Be genuinely interested in people – you will like almost everybody if you try.
7. Be generous with praise – cautious with criticism.
8. Be considerate with the feelings of others – there are usually three sides to a controversy, yours, the other fellow's and the right side.
9. Be alert to give service – what counts most in life is what we do for others.
10. Add to this a good sense of humor, a big dose of patience, and a dash of humility, and you will be rewarded many-fold.

Brother Laymen, let us not forget that we are not too high and mighty that we cannot be brought down. You see, the devil has some beatitudes too. They are as plain as day.

Blessed are those who are too tired, too busy, too distracted to spend an hour once a week in church. They are his best workers.

Blessed are those who wait to be asked and expect to be thanked. He can use them.

Blessed are the touchy. With a bit of luck, they may stop going to church. They are his missionaries.

Blessed are those who are very religious, but get on everyone's nerves. They are his also forever.

Blessed are the troublemakers. They shall be called his children.

Blessed are those who have no time to pray. They are easy prey for him.

Blessed are the gossips, for they are his secret agents.

Blessed are those critical of church leadership, for they shall inherit a place in his fate.

Blessed are the complainers – he is all ears for them.

So, Brother Laymen, let us not get caught up in the devil's beatitudes. We must pray like Daniel. Pray morning, noon, and night.

I hope that a word was said that will wake us up so that we may pray and give God the glory, for He has been too good to all of us.

Laugh & Learn Ministry

Laugh & Learn Ministry
P.O. Box 268
Fuquay-Varina, North Carolina 27526
Psalms 46:10 "Be still and know that I am God"

Elder Alcindor Hankins

Gospel Comedian

Alcindor LaSalle

Phone: 919.557.1227

"He'll fight my battles if I just keep still"

www.alcindor.com

cleancomedy@aol.com

Memphis Bus Trip

Submitted by Theodore David
and VP-GBSC Laymen's LEague Auxiliary

Greetings From the NC State Laymen's League:

The following information is provided to ensure that everyone understands the schedule for departure, travel, various stops, and arrival in Memphis, TN during the week-end of September 19-21, 2003.

We are happy to report that we have over 70 men, women, and children registered to go to Memphis and we are looking forward to a very enjoyable fellowship as we travel on the bus to Memphis to participate in the Walter Cade Southern Regional Laymen's Workshop. We are very pleased and thankful for everyone who is participating by traveling to Memphis, also for those who are not able to take the trip this year but have faithfully contributed or donated funds to be applied towards the costs of the 55 passenger chartered bus.

Also, thank you for your prayers that God will continue to bless the efforts of the GBSC Convention and the Laymen's League Auxiliary.

Each person planning to ride on the bus should be waiting at their designated bus stop at the appropriate time to help prevent delays in our travel schedule. We would also like to load as quickly as possible at each bus stop.

The schedule will be followed as outlined below:

* September 18, 2003 - (Thursday Night) at 11pm - The bus will leave Raleigh from

Southgate Shopping Center located at the corner of Rock Quarry and Cross Link Road. Please park your car in a low traffic and well lighted area of the parking lot as we will not be returning to Raleigh until Sunday evening, September 21, 2003.

* September 19, 2003 - (Friday Morning) at 12:30am - The bus will stop along Hwy 40 at the International Airport Exit at Hwy 40 and Hwy 68 - Between Greensboro and Winston Salem to stop and pick up additional people going to Memphis. We'll pickup the people in the McDonalds parking lot near the exit.

* September 19, 2003 - (Friday Morning) at 2am - The bus will stop along Hwy 40 at the Hwy 21 Exit in Statesville to stop and pick up additional people going to Memphis. We'll pickup people in the Wal-Mart parking lot near the exit.

* September 19, 2003 - (Friday Morning) at 3am - The bus will stop along Hwy 40 at the Fairgrove Church Rd Exit towards Catawba Valley Community College and will pick up additional people at the Ramada Inn parking lot at 1607 Fairgrove Church Road.

* We also stop near Asheville to change bus drivers

* We'll also stop about 8am in Knoxville TN for breakfast

* We'll stop again about 12 noon in Nashville for a lunch meal

* We should arrive in Memphis about 3pm on September 19, 2003

Below is a tentative outline of the schedule of the Southern Region Workshop activities during the three days that we'll be in Memphis TN.

Southern Regional Workshop
Welcoming Program
YOUTH NIGHT
Friday, September 19, 2003
7:00 p.m.

Master of Ceremonies

Precessional

Prayer and Praise Period
North Carolina, Alabama, Tennessee, Missouri, Georgia, South Carolina

Welcome

Drill Team

Musical Selection(s)

Offering

Musical Selection(s)

THEME:
Jesus Christ Only Always
Men Following God's Purpose
Place _____?

Carlos Nicolas
Tennessee Junior Laymen

All Participants

Southern Region
Junior Laymen

Bro. Torrence Payne
Tennessee Junior Layman

Springfield Missionary Baptist Church

Southern Regional
Junior Laymen

JUNIOR LAYMEN PERIOD

Following God's Purpose in your Youth Bro. Donald Trotter
Alabama Junior Laymen
Sharing God's Purpose For Me, To My Peers Bro. Liedell Lowe Jr.
Tennessee Junior Laymen

Musical Selection

Invitation

Remarks

Closing Prayer

Dr. William Jones
Tennessee Pastor

Bro. Donnie Mays
Regional Coordinator

Harold Sirnaons
National Laymen's President

Rev. T. L. Perkins
Tennessee

Saturday, September 20, 2003

Theme
Jesus Christ Only, Always
Men Following God's Purpose

6:30 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.
Breakfast

8:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.
Prayer and Testimonial Period

Alabama
Georgia
Florida
North Carolina
South Carolina
Tennessee

Bro. Eric Kelley
Dea. Willie Dailey
Bro. Everett Miles
Bro. L. K. Dyson

Bro. Donald Eat
Dea. Willie Rivers
Bro. Manning
Bro. Marvin Ross

8:30 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.
Welcome Period

Bro. Ozell Wright
Bro. Feaster Williamson
Bro. Richard Shower
Bro. James Dean
Bro. Emmett L. Thompson
Bro. John Gladden
President of Tennessee B.M. & E. Laymen
President of Tennessee Regular Laymen
President of Alabama State Laymen
President of G.M.B.C. Laymen of Georgia
President of South Carolina
President of North Carolina

8:45 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
Introduction to the National Baptist Laymen's Movement
President Harold Simmons, National Baptist Laymen's Movement

Senior Laymen Period

9:00 a.m. - 9:20 a.m.

Having Godly Conduct
Phil. 1:3-1, 27-30
Bro. Ted A. Mattison
South Carolina Laymen

9:20 a.m. - 9:40 a.m.

Christ Out Example
Phil. 2: 1-16
Bro. Alvin Moore
Alabama Laymen

9:40 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Pursuing The Good
Phil. 3: 1-16
Rev. Uelicious Purdy
Tennessee Pastor

10:00 a.m. - 10:10 a.m.

Offering
Georgia
Tennessee
Alabama
Florida
North Carolina
South Carolina
Bro. Elbert Johnson
Bro. J. C. Thomas
Dea. Edwin Gray
Bro. Gregory L. Garriel
Bro. Jerry Earl

10:10 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.

Musical Selection Alabama Male Chorus

10:15 a.m. - 10:35 a.m.

Rejoice In the Lord
Phil 4:4-20
Rev. Mike Brisco
Tennessee Laymen

10:35 a.m. - 10:55 a.m.

God's purpose for a
Laymen's Wife
Georgia Laywoman

10:55 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.

Directing Men Toward
God's Purpose
Rev. Dallas Foster
North Carolina Pastor

11:15 a.m. - 11:20 a.m.

Musical Selection Alabama Male Chorus

11:20 a.m. - 11:40 a.m.

Christ-like Living
Col. 3:1-17
Bro. Emmett B. Thompson
Florida Laymen

11:40 a.m. - 12:00p.m.

Summation
Rev. Vince Gosa
Alabama Pastor

12:00 Noon

Remarks President Harold Simmons
Coordinator Donnie Mays
President Ozell Wright

12:30 p.m.

Women's Luncheon
Place _____?

Men's Lunch
Place _____?

2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Youth Cultural tour of Memphis
Place to meet _____?

2:00 p.m.

Depart for Street Evangelistic Ministry

2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Street Evangelistic Ministry

Prayer, Praise, & Testimony

Laymen

Special Music

Alabama Male Chorus

Introduction of Speaker

Georgia

Message

Georgia

Invitation to Discipleship

Dr. Archie O. Logan, Jr.
North Carolina

Baptism

Closing Prayer

Rev. T. E. Edwards
South Carolina

WOMEN'S LUNCHEON PROGRAM
Place _____?

Cont. next page

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BANQUET

Saturday, September 20, 2003
7:00 P.M.

Processional	_____
Song	Congregation
Invocation	Bro. Paul Blackmon, Sr. Florida
Selection	Tennessee Male Chorus
Greetings	Bro. Ozell Wright Tennessee
Blessing of the Food	Bro. Theodore David North Carolina

DINNER IS SERVED

Special Presentations	_____
Musical Selection	Tennessee Male Chorus
Introduction of Speaker	Dr. Richard Showers, Sr. Alabama
Speaker	Rev. O. Wendell Davis Alabama
Musical Selection	Alabama Male Chorus
Presentations	_____
Remarks	President Harold Simmons President Feaster Williamson
Announcements and Divine Service Placements	Dr. Tom McKinley Tennessee Pastor
Benediction	_____

EARLY MORNING SERVICE

Sunday, September 21, 2003

Place _____

6:00 a.m.	Bro. Franklin Robinson, Presiding South Carolina
Prayer and Praise	Southern Region Laymen
Selection	Alabama Male Chorus
Introduction	Rev. _____ Tennessee
Speaker	Rev. Darrell Rozell Tennessee
Invitation	_____
Offering	_____
Remarks	_____
Divine Service Placements	Dr. Leroy Davis Tennessee
Grace and Benediction	Rev. _____ Georgia
7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.	Breakfast
9:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.	Depart to Divine Service

PREACHER'S HOOPER SERMON REPORT 2003

BLACK PREACHING SERMONS

94 Different Sermons (20 hrs. of research per sermon)
Dr. Ricky R. Eason Sr. - 139 Sawyer Rd., Roebuck, SC 29376
Ph. (864) 576-4961

SERMON TITLES:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 01. Your Anchor Holds And Grips The Solid Rock | 49. On The Day Of Pentecost |
| 02. You Got The Right One Baby / Doing The Thing Right | 50. Jesus Is All That! And A Whole Lot More |
| 03. God Said It, I Believe And That Settles It / It All Adds Up | 51. Muddy Putty In The Potter's Hands |
| 04. Burn Up Or Burn Out For God | 52. When Stress Controls You Jesus Consoles You |
| 05. Busted Britches From Straddling The Fence | 53. Black Men And Women, Young And Old, Changing A Generation |
| 06. Dangerous Minds | 54. I Am Black But I Am Somebody |
| 07. Don't Even Think About It | 55. Staying Afloat In A Sinking Boat |
| 08. Fired Up By The Holy Ghost | 56. He That Has A Friend Must Show Himself Friendly |
| 09. Are You Full Of The Stuff | 57. Victory Is Mine |
| 10. Let's Get On Board | 58. Occupy Till I Come |
| 11. God Picked Me To Be On His Side | 59. A Man On A Mission / The Borrowed Ax |
| 12. Grace On The Race | 60. Busy In God's Business |
| 13. Grow Up Or Blow Up | 61. That's Just Like Mama |
| 14. Hang In There | 62. He's Alive And I Am Glad About It |
| 15. He Lifted Me Up Out Of The Miry Clay | 63. What The World Needs Now Is Love Sweet Love |
| 16. Look Where The Lord Has Brought Me From | 64. I Moved From My Old House And My Old Friends |
| 17. If My People | 65. I Just Want To Know Why |
| 18. We Can Do It For A New Day Has Come | 66. What Do You Do When Life Is Not Fair |
| 19. I Know What Prayer Can Do | 67. Why Do Bad Things Happen To Good People |
| 20. Put Some Clothes On Child | 68. What Do You Do When Your Brook Runs Dry |
| 21. A Right Thing In A Wrong Time | 69. Diagnosis From Dr. Jesus, Go And See The Dr. |
| 22. The Man Who Had Everything But The Right Thing | 70. Who Is This Man |
| 23. Soap For The Soul | 71. What Would Jesus Do |
| 24. Stay On The Lord's Side | 72. If I Could But Touch The Hem Of His Garment |
| 25. If You Take One Step He'll Take Two | 73. Come See A Man |
| 26. Stepping In Your Own Mess | Twenty-One (21) New Sermons |
| 27. I Can't Lose With The Stuff I Use | 74. Wounded By The Ones You Love |
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| 29. Warm In A Cold Situation | 76. Don't Quit |
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By Dr. Jasper P. Reed, Historian, GBSC

"So, as much as is in me, I am ready to preach the gospel to you: that are in For I am not ashamed of the gospel



Dr. Jasper Reed

of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth" (Romans 1:15-16). This was the testimony of our senior pastor for this month. It has been said that he is probably the Dean of the Senior Pastors

in the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc. One who has been in the Ministry for 65 years and at his present post for the past 59 years. Truly he was ready to preach. He hails from Savannah, Georgia where he grew up, was educated, and was a member of the Bethlehem Baptist Church. It was at Bethlehem that he was baptized, preached his trial sermon, and licensed into the ministry.

Senior Pastor Series

Our Senior Pastor for this month, Dr. Jerry A. Drayton, Sr. spent the next few years preparing himself to carry out the scriptural dictates found in the Roman scripture. He graduated from Beach Adult School in Savannah, received a Bachelors degree from Morehouse College in Atlanta, both a Bachelors and a Masters of Divinity degree from Howard University in Washington, DC. Dr. Drayton possesses two Honorary Doctorate degrees: one from Virginia Seminary and College, and the other from Shaw University Divinity School. Additionally, he is certified in Clinical and Pastoral Counseling by the Bowman Gray School of Pastoral Care in Winston-Salem, NC.

While still a student at Howard University in 1944, he was called to be a pastor of the New Bethel Baptist Church in Winston-Salem. This call is still clear and has lasted for the past 59 years. Dr. Drayton married the former Susie Jones of Atlanta, Georgia and to this union came one son, Jerry A. Drayton, Jr., who is an instructor at Morehouse College, and a practicing attorney in Atlanta. "I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when

no man works" (John 9:4). Pastor Drayton has managed to keep this scriptural passage in focus throughout his tenure at the New Bethel Baptist Church. A dynamic pastor and shepherd of his flock, his work has touched all aspects of his congregation's life. He has been involved in their civic and political lives. This is evidenced by his services. He served as the first black president of the interracial Forsyth Minister's fellowship, he served with the North Carolina Interracial fellowship, the Winston-Salem Interracial Urban League's Board of Directors, and the first black chairman of the NC Human Relations 1971-1985, and served again from 1994-2000. This is but a minute portion of his service areas. All of these were in keeping with him trying to do God's will. He is affiliated with the GBSC, and serves the Rowan Missionary Baptist Association. He is a member of the National Baptist Convention, Inc. Dr. Drayton spends



Dr. Jerry A. Drayton

much of his time in outreach ministries especially assisting the underprivileged. This is in addition to his religious ministries. He has received many honors. He has limited me to a few of them. He was honored by having a modern housing complex "Drayton Pines" built and named for him by the City of Winston-Salem, he was awarded the North Carolina Order of the Leaf of the Pines by the then Governor James Hunt in 1994, the Winston-Salem City Council's Humanitarian award in 2003. Many other persons and organizations have accorded him profound accolades during his tenure-ship at New Bethel. All of these testify to the depth and strength of the relationship that exists between this pastor and the generation of members he has pastored.

Dr. Drayton has not been on this journey alone. The Triune God, and a devoted and caring wife have accompanied him. While he came to New Bethel in 1944, she came in 1946. They have journeyed together for the past 57 years at the New Bethel Church. In addition to being a native of Atlanta, Georgia she is a graduate of Spellman College. New Bethel and Winston-Salem have gained two outstanding citizens. ■

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Going to court the last resort

By Dr. Donaldson Jones, President

Today's legal system is bogged down by all kinds of significant as well as trivial matters. There are, of course, issues that can't be settled anywhere but in a court of law. Having said this, however, most if not all in-house church problems

should be handled within the church.

The secular media and those antagonists to the church seem to relish any opportunity to publicly berate and parade the flaws of the church and its leaders. We must not give them ammunition to shoot down the integrity and importance of Christian causes and concerns.

The scripture states forthrightly: "If any of you have a dispute with another, dare he take it before the ungodly for judgement instead of before the saints? Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if you are to judge the world, are you not competent to judge trivial cases?" (1 Cor. 6:1-3, NIV.) ■



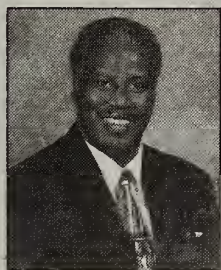
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How To Build Without Borrowing

by Pastor Michael H. Baker. The success of any building program is to be submissive to the will of the Master Builder allowing Him to do the building. "Except the Lord build the house, They labor in vain that build it.

Terror & Triumph by Anthony B. Pinn.

An extraordinarily interesting account of the ways in which slavery operated, mainly in the southern states, together with a very thought-provoking new analysis of the nature and role of black religion within and in response to slavery.

The Measure Of A Man by Martin Luther King, Jr.

Eloquent and passionate, reasoned and sensitive, this pair of meditations by the revered civil rights leader contains the theological roots of his political and social philosophy of nonviolence.

The Bible And African Americans

A Brief History by Vincent L. Wimbury. The Bible and African Americans describes through the five phases of African American readings how African Americans discovered new hope in this ancient text.

Strength To Love by Martin Luther King, Jr.

"If there is one book Martin Luther King, Jr. has written that people consistently tell me has changed their lives, it is *Strength to Love*."

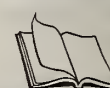
Coretta Scott King

Fortress Introduction To Black Church History

by Anne H. Pinn & Anthony B. Pinn. Provides an overview of the history of three major historically black religious denominations: Baptist, Methodist, and Pentecostal. Introduces the beginnings of those denominations.

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A Mustard Seed by Evelyn C. McLean.

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The Woman At The Well by T.K. Jordan.

TK Jordan tells her true story, married five times by the age of thirty-five. Yes, a modern day woman at the well! Searching yet never satisfied, trying to fill a void that only Jesus Christ could fill.

It's All About God by Dr. Debbie A. Strickling-Bullock.

A book written specifically to help African American women of the baby boomer generation. This book shows that there is a Divine inworking and outworking in every situation we face.

★BOOK OF THE MONTH★

My Heart by Juanita Bynum, Ph.D.

This groundbreaking message will open your eyes to the truth about your own heart. Whether you are new to the faith or have been doing great things for God's kingdom for years, you still need a new heart.

Praise: An Antidote for the Antichrist

by George O. McCalep, Jr., Ph.D. Praising the Hell Out of Yourself™ is based on the theological truth that Christ indeed died for the pardon of sin but the presence of sin is still with us.

Edifying Expressions by Patricia W. Brower.

Not only just what you might have wanted to say, but what we might find ourselves saying in the future. Brief and catchy poems are pithy and memorable, offering us inspiration and encouragement.

What Must I Do When There Are Offenses All Around?

by Kwame Frimpong. Countless Christians throughout the world are facing enormous offenses, hatred, disappointment, and variety of adverse circumstances in both their family and their church.

Out of Death Came Life by Barbara Monroe.

A walk through Psalm 27. You experience the loss, the battle, the suffering, the delivery and the victory against satan.



Peace Be Unto You: Be Prepared To Follow

By A. T. Griffey, III
Statistician, GBSC



Dr. A.T.
Griffey, III

We are often reminded of our need to spend time in prayer and in the study of God's Word. These essential disciplines allow us to abide in the presence of God and "hear" when He calls us to action; they are also necessary for strengthening our faith in order to obediently follow where He leads.

God's Word encourages us that when He calls, He also provides the tools to accomplish our assigned task; "His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness" (2 Peter 1:3). We are also comforted that as we respond, we will never be alone; "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5). But

God's call also carries responsibility; His call says He has made His choice – He has chosen us to take part in His wonderful plan and, in faith, we must respond by following.

After delivering many of God's messages to the people of Israel – calling them to repent and return to the worship of the One True God – the prophet Jeremiah became impatient with God's timing: "I would speak with You about Your justice: Why does the way of the wicked prosper? Why do all the faithless live at ease?" (Jeremiah 12:1). Jeremiah complained about how long he had to wait for the wicked to be punished. He was following God and calling others to do the same, but the ungodly seemed to continue living the "good" life. This sounds much like the way we complain today.

God's response wasn't exactly what Jeremiah was hoping to receive.

Jeremiah 12:5 – "If you have raced

with men on foot and they have worn you out, how can you compete with horses? If you stumble in safe country, how will you manage in the thickets by the Jordan?"

God told Jeremiah that the situation in Israel was going to get worse in the coming days; He asked Jeremiah if he was truly ready for the challenge. Jeremiah had been called to be God's messenger and now was not the time to complain – this was the time to be a soldier and trust with ALL his heart; it was a time to renew his strength, and push toward the assigned goal.

Our Heavenly Father dearly loves

us and desires and eternity of intimate fellowship. He is a God of great comfort, but He is also our Commanding Officer who challenges us to prepare for the Spiritual battles ahead. As bad and unjust as the world often appears, there is no guarantee that things won't become worse. We must trust now more than ever that God chose the right person when He gave us our assignments; He has made His call and promises to provide all the necessary tools at the proper time.

Let's spend more time worshipping at His feet and loving Him with all our heart. Let's rely on His strength and trust His understanding – let's draw closer to His side and always be prepared to follow.

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(2 Peter 1:3)

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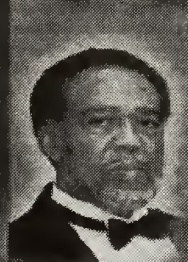
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By Delores Griffey

Universal Praise

Blessed the Lord, O my soul (v. 1). The psalmist opens by addressing God on a personal level. He is praising God for what He does and for who He is. As



Delores Griffey

we read this psalm, we discover why God is so wonderful.

He is the merciful Savior (vv. 8-12). God in His grace gives us what we don't deserve and in His mercy doesn't give us what we do deserve. But He does have a

holy temper, and we must not provoke Him by deliberately sinning.

He is the tender Father (vv. 13-18). Why does God show mercy? Because it

Psalm 103

- 1 Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name.
- 2 Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:
- 3 Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases;
- 4 Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with loving kindness and tender mercies;
- 5 Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's.
- 6 The LORD executeth righteousness and judgment for all that are oppressed.
- 7 He made known his ways unto Moses, his acts unto the children of Israel.
- 8 The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy.
- 9 He will not always chide: neither will he keep his anger for ever.
- 10 He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.
- 11 For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him.
- 12 As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.

is His nature to exercise compassion and love. He is tender because He knows we are made of dust. We are frail. We're temporary, like a flower that soon fades and dies. Our response to God's tenderness should be praise and obedience.

He deserves universal praise (vv. 19-22). We see in the Book of Revelation that praise for God increases and spreads over all the universe. We will be part of that someday.

Why do we praise Him? Because His throne is secure. We praise Him because we can keep His commandments, serve Him and please Him. We praise Him because His works are so wonderful, and He's allowed us to be part of them.

The psalm ends the way it begins – on a personal level. "Bless the Lord, O my soul." Follow the psalmist's lead and praise God for His wonderful attributes and deeds. ■

Richard H. Moore
State Treasurer

Dr. Archie Logan, Jr.
Executive Secretary-Treasurer
General Baptist State Convention

Dear Pastor,

The General Baptist State Convention joins Richard H. Moore, State Treasurer, in encouraging your Association and church to identify your unclaimed property. As your State Treasurer and Executive Secretary Treasurer of the General Baptist State Convention, the two of us serve important roles in North Carolina. It is for this reason we want to make you aware of a program that may benefit both your church and its members.

The North Carolina Department of State Treasurer is responsible for administering the "Escheat and Unclaimed Property Program". The purpose of this program is simple; when a company or financial institution is holding money that belongs to a North Carolina resident and that individual cannot be located, the company is required by law to turn the money over to the Department of State Treasurer, where it is held until the rightful owner claims it. This "unclaimed cash" is often the result of forgotten utility deposits, bank accounts, stocks that were purchased, and checks that have not been cashed. Currently, the North Carolina Department of State Treasurer is holding over \$350 million in unclaimed cash that belongs to 1.4 million people and organizations.

It is important that as much of this money as possible gets returned to the rightful owners. In order to do that, we need your help. We hope that you can assist us in getting the word out about this program by letting your church members know it is there and making them aware of how they can check to see if they may be owed money.

The easiest way to find out if your name is on the Unclaimed Property list is to log onto the North Carolina Department of State Treasurer website at www.treasurer.state.nc.us. You then click on the "Unclaimed Property Program" link to get to a page where you can type in your name. We suggest not only checking your name with the proper spelling, but try variations on the spelling of your name, as well. Sometimes the reason money does not get to an individual is because the company sending it has the wrong address or incorrect spelling of the person's name.

It is also important to know that claiming your money through the Department of State Treasurer is completely free. You should be aware that there are services that DO charge a fee to locate any unclaimed funds that may be owed to you. It is not necessary to use these services or to pay a fee to have your money returned. You can claim your money directly from the Department of State Treasurer at no cost.

We believe sharing information regarding the "Unclaimed Property Program" with your church members is a valuable service. Not only will this information help your members to claim any money that they may be owed, but it will also be helpful to your communities as the word travels to relatives, friends and neighbors of your members. We also suggest you check the name of your church to see if money is owed to it. There are thousands of businesses and organizations that have unclaimed cash, and your church may be one of them.

We appreciate your assistance in helping us to make the citizens of North Carolina aware of this program, and look forward to working with you to return as much money as possible to your church members. The General Baptist Foundation is also available to assist you in locating your money at no cost; simply call the Foundation toll free at 1-866-858-7847 or log on to the General Baptist State Convention's website at www.GBSC.org, then click on the [N.C. Department of State Treasurer](http://www.GBSC.org) link to access the "Unclaimed Property Program".

Sincerely,

Richard H. Moore
State Treasurer

Dr. Archie Logan, Jr.
Executive Secretary-Treasurer
General Baptist State Convention

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ILLUSTRATIONS

- A Diagram of A Sunday School Organizational Chart
- Sunday School Recruitment Card
- Sunday School Membership Survey Form
- Certificate of Recognition

- Sunday School Visitor Card
- Prospect Card
- Certificate of Promotion

Highlights • October 26 – 30, 2003

October 26, 2003

Pre-Convention Musical Program
Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church
Charlotte, NC
Reception to follow

October 27, 2003

Lord's Supper Service 8:30 p.m.
Ministers are asked to wear their white Communion robes and white gloves for this worship service. All deacons are asked to wear dark suits and sit together with the other deacons in attendance. In addition, all deaconesses are requested to dress in white and sit with the other deaconesses in the area designated.

October 28, 2003

Presidents Banquet
University Hilton Charlotte Hotel
8629 JM Keynes Dr.
Charlotte, NC 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Banquet Guest Preacher –
Dr. Julius Scruggs

October 29, 2003

Institutional & Specialized Services
(Prison Ministry Breakfast) 8 – 9 a.m.

136th Annual Theme Address –
Dr. George Cook 7:30 p.m.

136th Convention Sermon –
Dr. Carl E. Brinkley 8:00 p.m.

October 30, 2003

11:00 *Presidents Hour*
Dr. Charles T. Bullock, President

Late Night Worship Service –
9:00 p.m.

Dr. Robert E. McGowens –
Evangelism Chairman

Late Night Guest Preachers
October 27 –
Pastor Joseph R. Samuels,
Stephens Missionary Baptist Church
Winston-Salem, NC

October 28 – Pastor James Woodson,
St. James Home of
Fresh Fruit Church
Greensboro, NC

October 29 –
Pastor Claude Alexander,
University Park Baptist Church
Charlotte, NC

Special Convention Classes offered

Monday – Wednesday

Discipleship Training
Writing Church History
Church & the Computer

Other classes will be offered

Ebenezer Baptist Church
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GENERAL BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION

OCTOBER 26 - 30, 2003

DR. CHARLES T. BULLOCK, PRESIDENT • DR. ARCHIE D. LOGAN, JR., EXECUTIVE SECRETARY TREASURER

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136th Annual Session

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A Ministry of Service, A Ministry of Joy:

Submitted by Forest M. Eaves, Jr.
President, Ushers

Chapter One:

"A MINISTRY OF SERVICE"

Ushers in General Baptist Churches



Mr. Forest
Eaves

see themselves chiefly as servants. Ushering is not a forum for promoting self nor is it an assignment to be dreaded. For the person whose life has been transformed by the power of Christ, ushering is an expression of gratitude and praise. It is grat-

itude inasmuch as ushers appreciate the grace of God in their own lives which allows them to serve. It is praise inasmuch as ushers recognize that they are made worthy to serve by that same grace. This gratitude and praise naturally express themselves in Christian service.

Ushers do not primarily see their work as service to the Church (though ushering is an essential part of the life of modern Church). Ushers render their service first and primarily to God. The actions of the ushers are an offering to God – an offering of the best of a person's talent, time, and experience. Before anything else, an usher seeks to offer service which will be pleasing and acceptable to God. No usher wishes to fall in the category of Cain and have the offering of his service rejected by God.

The natural result of sincere service to God is, of course, service to people. The usher, then, makes his offering to God by serving the needs of people. Ushers who seek to provide a comfortable and safe worship place for Church members and guests provide an important service to people and, at the same time, make an offering of their service to God.

There are certain elements essential to making the work of the usher a service

which helps people and honors God. Without these, the persons wearing badges in our Churches become no more than "people handlers" and "aisle decorations".

If ushering is to be a ministry of service, then it must be marked by efficiency. Efficiency is achieved by knowledge and practice. An usher must know the job and must practice the craft. A cook who has memorized the recipe for a cake but has never tested it in the kitchen will never be called a great cook. Likewise, an usher who knows the rules but fails to put the rules to use will never be called a great usher. In order to help rather than to hinder worship, an usher must strive to achieve a high level of efficiency.

Dedication must compliment efficiency if ushering is to be a ministry of service. Who would wish to visit a doctor whose interest is really in being a contractor? If his heart is with bricks and mortar, it is conceivable that this physician will never become an expert in matters of lung and heart. A sense of dedication to the office of usher is required for effective service as an usher. Ushering must be something that the individual really wants to do and, because of that desire, an usher becomes dedicated to pursuing excellence. The dedicated usher will be dependable, cooperative, and anxious to serve. It is the ushers' dedication to the ministry of ushering which provides the motivation for continuing service. While a kind word or gesture of appreciation is always appreciated by those who usher, it is their own sense of dedication – which stems deep from within themselves – that keeps them coming back week after week and service after service.

If ushering is a ministry of service, it must not only be marked by efficiency and dedication, but it must also be marked by helpfulness. The central desire of the Church usher is to help someone. Helping others receive the most that they can from worship is what an usher wants to accomplish. To this

end, helpfulness may mean more than simply responding to the requests of the worshipers. Helpfulness may also call for the usher to anticipate worshipers' needs and to offer them special assistance. Of course, it is helpful to lead a worshiper to a comfortable seating place, but it is also helpful to notice that a visitor may not have a hymnal at hand and to pass that guest a hymnal even before such a request is made.

Efficiency, dedication, and helpfulness come together to create a person who excels in the ministry of service. When these qualities come together, a person will perform the duties of office in a remarkable manner and will cause the entire congregation to be proud of the Church's usher ministry.

This ministry of service called ushering is multi-faceted and encompasses a wide variety of tasks, assignments, and duties. It is the ushers' job to see that worshipers are comfortable and that nothing inhibits their focus on worship. Ushers should work in concert with and be in consultation with church custodians and trustees or others who are responsible for the appearance and condition of the Church property. Hymnals losing their backs, an untidy restroom, or a plant

which obstructs view for example, may not be in the ushers' domain of responsibility, but taking the initiative to report it to the proper persons may help in creating a better worship atmosphere for someone.

Being courteous, warm, and friendly to all who enter is a vital part of being an usher. The cliché, "Everybody is somebody", will either be confirmed or denied first by the ushers. Inasmuch as worshipers (whether members or friends) will probably encounter the usher before any other person on the church staff, it is conceivable that this first impression will cause that worshiper to label the entire Church in either a positive or negative fashion. Ushers should strive to make first impression a good one.

The usher should be actively involved in helping to create a worshipful atmosphere in the Church. The manner in which the usher carries himself will say much about the Church. Ushers who are reverent, quiet, and orderly will say by their actions: **"This is the House of God. Peace to all who enter here."**

Dr. Haywood T. Gray, 1458 Cedrow Drive,
High Point, NC 27260-4246
Pastor of the Temple Memorial Baptist
Church, High Point, NC

This Book can be purchased at the Baptist
Headquarters, 603 S. Wilmington St.,
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North Carolina Baptist Usher's Convention

Officers' Retreat

When: Friday, November 7, 2003

Where: J.J. Johnson Baptist Assembly
Laurel Hill, NC

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Annual Workshop

When: Saturday, November 8, 2003

Where: J.J. Johnson Baptist Assembly
Laurel Hill, NC

Time: 9:00 a.m.

REGISTRATION \$10.00

Mr. Forest M. Eaves, Jr., President
Voice Mail: (704) 372-5338 • Fax: (704) 372-0014

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NORTH CAROLINA BAPTIST USHER'S CONVENTION

Use Our Text Books:

**The Holy Bible And
"A Ministry Of Service."
"A Ministry Of Joy."**

Mr. Forest M. Eaves, Jr. - President

"A Christian Leaders's Prayer: Psalm 25:4-5"

Michael R. Smith, Sr., Chairman

Where does a leader go for the answers to their questions? Questions that deal with:

- Wisdom for ministry in a fallen world.
- Direction for leading God's people,
- Courage to stand in times of spiritual warfare.



Rev. Michael Smith, Sr.

order to be the leader God has called them to be. I remember at my ordination at MSBC on December 17, 1988 how Rev. R.A.L. Walker spoke to me from the 139th Psalm. The Psalm which in essence teaches that God knows us in the most intimate way. But Rev. Walker said something that stayed in my mind and heart. He said, **"there will come times when you must learn to ask... and it is hard to for leaders sometimes to ask for what they need."** I discovered this to be true of me at times and I sense true of many who are in leadership. Yet, the Bible records that asking was the only way many early church leaders sought after God. The Apostle James said, **"if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God..."** But there was a prerequisite for asking, **"let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind."** The necessity of asking in faith is essential.

God is our Father. Jesus taught us in the Disciple's Prayer in Matthew 6:9-13, that we His children are to ask for our daily bread (necessities), for forgiveness as we forgive those who sin against us, and for deliverance from temptation and evil. Asking is central to finding the answers and help a leader needs in ministry.

Leaders in the 21st century face the challenge of leading the Church into the final leg of the race. We must bear the responsibility of fulfilling the Great Commission and preparing the Church for the Lord's return. I believe Church leadership has never faced a time in human history of such subtle spiritual deception and theological confusion. The **secularism** (removal of the influence of God's truth from social life), **relativism** (the rejection of right and wrong or absolute truth) and

pluralism (the theological position that suggests that there are many paths to God and expressions of God's truth and all are equally valid in leading to salvation.

This mixture of the denial of God's truth in society, no right or wrong and that there are many equally valid paths to God has produced the greatest challenge for Church leadership in human history. The challenge is to know the way of God our Father in this last hour. **And for leaders to know the way and will of God our Father we must sincerely ask in prayer!**

Major Teachings From The Text

My sincere desire is to exhort all church leaders to seek through prayer our Lord Jesus Christ as your ultimate example, leader and teacher in leading the Church in the 21st century.

The Apostle Paul prayer as recorded in Ephesians 1:15 -23 emphasizes the great desire of a Church leader for those one leads. He tells the Church at Ephesus:

- I am always praying for you.
- I am praying that God the father will give you the spirit of wisdom.
- I am praying God will give you the spirit of revelation in the knowledge of Him.
- I am praying for your understanding to be enlightened.
- I am praying you will understand the hope of His calling.
- I am praying you will know the riches of His inheritance in the saints.
- I am praying you will know His the exceeding greatness of His power.
- The Apostle Paul affirms the Lord's resurrection from the dead and His headship of the Church.

This prayer reveals the Apostle Paul's great desire for the Church in Ephesus. All Church leaders and those being ordained today are called to prayer as a priority in ministry. Prayer is the "great privilege" of talking and listening to God Almighty. Prayer is the most important aspect of a Church leader's life. Prayer is a leader's spiritual lifeline in all we seek to accomplish for the cause of Christ. Prayer is the central essential discipline in our discipleship. Richard Foster says,

"Prayer catapults us onto the frontier of the spiritual life. Of all the spiritual disciplines prayer is the most central because it ushers us into perpetual communion with the Father...Real prayer is life creating and life changing...To pray is to change. Prayer is the central avenue God uses to transform us."

Yet, for me there is a deeper concern regarding the prayers of Church leaders. This concern arises out of personal desire to be more of what God has called me to be. In my desire to grow in spiritual maturity, I am discovering prayer is more

than just making requests of God.

Through my personal search I have asked why does God give the Church leaders?

He alone can provide the best leadership all by Himself. I have discovered God calls fallible men and women not because he needs us, but because He chooses to reveal something about Himself. Reggie McNeal makes it plain when he said,

"...God creates leaders in order to share His heart."

God our Father wants leaders to help the Church know His heart. What a great responsibility! The Prophet Jeremiah speaking for God said,

"I will give you shepherds according to My heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding."

I have come to understand in Jesus' mission of coming to die for the sins of the world was also to reveal the Heart of God the Father. Church leaders must make the pursuit of knowing the heart of God their central pursuit.

We must never forget Judas the betrayer was right in the midst of the first leaders of the Church. Judas walked with Jesus Christ for nearly 3 years. What was Judas' problem? His problem was his motives were selfish and evil. Judas did not want to "know Him", Judas wanted to "know what I can get from Him". Therefore, he was willing to sell-out the Lord Jesus for thirty pieces of silver.

Let us not think for a minute that we do not have any present day Judas'. There many "enemies of the cross." They are characterized by selfishness, greed, worldliness and destruction. The renowned Dr. Gardner Taylor in his classic sermon, "His Own Clothes" spoke of people's insincerity in the church.

"There are still others who put garments of mock royalty on the Lord and who call His name but feel no deep loyalty to Him. No crowning and controlling love for the Lord, who has done so much for us. You may see them now and again in church, now and then among the people of Christ."

Dr. Taylor raises the personal challenge for self-inspection by all of us here today,

"Have I put fake garments on the Lord Jesus? Have I cloaked the Savior of the world in scarlet robes of pretense, claiming that I honor Him as Lord while my heart is far from Him? Do I take my faith in the Lord Jesus seriously?"

What sobering questions especially for those of us in Church leadership? There is a hymn anonymously written entitled, "Keep Me True." The words are:

"KEEP ME TRUE, LORD JESUS, KEEP ME TRUE.

THERE IS A RACE THAT MUST BE RUN, THERE'S A VICTORY TO BE

WON EVERY HOUR BY THY POWER KEEP ME TRUE."

My question is what does it take for Church leader's to stay true to the One who has called us to be leaders in His Church? I submit to you it takes the sincerity of heart in a **CHRISTIAN LEADER'S PRAYER!** If it took being sinless, we would all be disqualified, but there is no excuse for leader to not be sincere.

Psalm 25:4-5 Key Verses

The short prayer recorded in the 25th Psalm is a prayer I recommend for every Church leader to make your own daily prayer of petition. This prayer by King David is fitting for the challenges faced by leaders in the 21st century. This prayer asks for the essentials of Church leadership. If we are to seek to know the heart of God in leadership we must pray like King David, **"a man after God's own heart."** King David prayed,

SHOW ME YOUR WAYS

Every Church leader should pray for God to show them His ways.

David is praying at a time of crisis. He needs to know the ways of God. The word "show" means to perceive, to understand, to acquire knowledge to discern, to be acquainted with.

The word "ways" means walk, course, or way of life. Therefore, David is praying for God to help him to perceive and understand God's own course or way of life.

Church leaders must depend on God to show us His ways in leading the Church in these chaotic and brutal times. Our prayer has been answered because Jesus said, **"I AM THE WAY"**¹⁰

God's ways have shown to us by our Lord Jesus Christ. Never has the Church been so gullible to the ways of the world as today. It appears the Church is being led to imitate the world ways in many respects. What did Jesus show us to help leaders to know God's ways? Jesus showed us God's way must have a cross.

The NT requirement for following Jesus necessitates every leader to deny themselves and carry their own cross. I have long pondered what does it mean to carry my cross? I have come to understand to carry my cross means to **voluntarily choose the path of life God has ordained for me.**

There is a brand of Christianity being promoted by some leaders that leaves out the cross of Christ. I am deeply concerned because this erroneous teaching is growing in popularity. This false brand of Christianity does not promote dependence on God through prayer, but an arrogant demanding of God in prayer. This

PRAYER, Cont'd on page 22



Holla, If You Hear Me!

By Reverend Anthonette Wright
Recording Secretary/Vice Chairperson Program
Committee
GBSC Evangelism Ministry

All over this world people are screaming... "Holla if your hear me", today's familiar slang phrase. No different than "what's up", "what's happening", or "what it is", People want to know if someone is paying attention to them. The Youth Evangelism Division of the Evangelism Ministry is setting out to let the youth know. We hear you! Our response: Holla, Jesus is alive!

The last week in July was a week from Glory Divine! The outcome of our first Youth Evangelism Explosion was remarkable to say the least. Over 150 youth and young adults participated in an explosive conference. The Word of God was preached, coping skills were taught, and life lessons were learned.

The theme set the tone and direction for the conference.

Theme: To Serve The Present Age
Sub-Theme: Reaching The Masses Through Effective Evangelism

Effective evangelism is taking Jesus to where ever people are in their lives. The

Samaritan woman at the well is a great example. Jesus went to the well, offered Himself. The woman accepted and went away sharing Jesus with others. Many believed because of her testimony. This was the sentiments of the Youth Evangelism Ministry. Take Jesus to the youth, offer Him to them and let them accept and go forth telling someone else.

Because of Jesus, the youth in Forsyth County will never be the same. Each night, the Old North State Medical Society shared a *Teen Tobacco Use Prevention and Cessation Project Youth Empowerment Session*. Not only did they share prevention methods and the dangerous effects of smok-



Rev. Anthonette Wright



HOLLA, Cont'd next page



HOLLA, Cont'd from opposite page

ing, but they shared personal testimonies, dance interpretations and scriptural encouragement. Dance teams from Forsyth County shared in the conference. First Baptist Hamlet youth choir, pastor and congregation showed up and showed out. Workshop leaders Reverend Alexander Herring and Minister Marie Griffin taught the Word of God with powerful presentations. The preachers, well they preached to the glory of God. Reverend Darryl Todd: *When All Else Fails, Try Jesus!* Reverend Anthonette Wright: *Bad Boys!* Reverend LaMont Johnson: *Somebody Say Yes!* Reverend Letari Thompson led a mass choir that rehearsed and sang under the anointing of the Holy Ghost and blessed the conference with melodies from Heaven.

The Youth Evangelism Ministry efforts were not in vain. I Corinthians 15:58 was brought to the forefront. *Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that*

you labour is not in vain in the Lord. Out of the crowd of witnesses, 15 converted souls came forth to give their lives to the Lord. Then on Saturday morning two of the young souls were baptized, shared in Holy Communion and given the Right-Hand of Fellowship. Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

We get excited when someone gets a house or gets healed in the body. But when a soul is saved we don't move or show the same excitement. You can die with a new house and not have Jesus and miss Heaven. But with Jesus you have it all. What will it profit this whole world if you have wealth and

fortune but don't have Jesus? We have more to gain with the Lord than without Him. We are glad for the souls

Announce the Kingdom of God and let the world know that Heaven is still in business.

saved during the conference.

Don't let anyone miss Heaven! ■



PRAYER, Cont'd from page 19

false brand of Christianity leads to what I call "celebrity leaders" instead of "servant leaders". This false brand of Christianity does not ask in prayer "Your will be done", but presumptuously says "my will be done." This false Christianity is subtle and deceptive. Only those leaders who pray sincerely for God to show me Your ways will be able to discern it is not of God.

The cross symbolizes the way in which God calls the Church must go. It is not an easy way, it is a narrow way, it is not a broad way, but a narrow way, it is not the popular way, it is a despised way. It is not a materialistic way, but a spiritual way.

THE WAY OF THE CROSS IS THE "ONLY WAY!"

"I MUST NEEDS GO HOME BY THE WAY OF THE CROSS; THERE'S NO OTHER WAY BUT THIS; I SHALL NEVER GET SIGHT OF THE GATES OF LIGHT IF THE WAY OF THE CROSS I MISS."¹¹

TEACH ME YOUR PATHS

David also prays for God to teach him His paths. David has been humiliated and hurt deeply by his own son Absalom who has led a coup to take his kingdom from his father. Certainly in his bewilderment he needed instruction that only God could give him. In times of deep failure, alienation or regret a Church leader can learn their most important lessons from God. How often in your times of failure or despair have you prayed for God to teach me His paths.

"WHEN I AM SAD AT HEART, TEACH ME YOUR WAY! WHEN EARTHLY JOYS DEPART, TEACH ME YOUR WAY! IN HOURS OF LONELINESS, IN TIMES OF DIRE STRESS, IN FAILURE OR SUCCESS, TEACH ME YOUR WAY!"¹²

The Psalmist declared, "Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep your word...It is good for me that I have been afflicted, that I may learn Your statutes."¹³

Our Lord Jesus Christ taught us in His most intense time of testing in the Garden of Gethsemane, that prayer is the way we can always pass the test. Prayer in times of trial takes on a deeper significance leading to a greater strength in following the pathway God has chosen for one to walk.

Church leaders who embrace biblical discipleship will see every experience as an opportunity to be taught by God. We are lifelong learners in the School of Christ.

A Church leader's prayer should always be, "teach me good judgment and knowledge, for I believe Your commandments."¹⁴

I encourage all of us in leadership to not miss the most important lessons God our Father wants to teach us even in the trials of life. Painfully learned lessons mold our obedience and strengthen our ability to be humble and patient with others in their times of trial or crisis. There is no better example than that of Job. In the darkness of his agonizing loss and excruciating pain Job declared, "though He slay me, yet will I trust Him..."¹⁵

Job learned in the midst of His greatest trial to trust God. Let us pray to be taught the same lesson of trust in being able to say it is well with my soul.

LEAD ME IN YOUR TRUTH

David prayed for leadership in God's truth. How essential this prayer request is for every Church leader to make today. David could have chosen any directions to go in at this crisis time, but he asked to be led in truth. The word for truth implies the idea of firmness or stability.

Our postmodern society has embraced the mindset there is no "absolute truth". Truth is defined, as what I believe is true for me. Truth is now subjectively arrived at as a matter of personal preference. But David prayed, lead me in Your truth. David still realized truth is not found within man, but must come from God. Jesus declared not only to be the way, but the Truth.¹⁶

Many of the leaders today are more concerned about being "politically correct" than they are about the truth. Church leaders cannot bow to being politically correct at the expense of truth. This goes even farther to what I call being "traditionally correct" in the Church. Many are more concerned about the "traditional correctness" of Church than the truth of God. Jesus spoke to the Pharisees who found fault and questioned Him about His disciples not traditionally washing their hands before they ate bread in the market place.

Jesus' reply is very important for Church leaders who want to be led by God's truth. He exposed their evil desire to receive the people's money for the Temple treasury and side step God's truth to honor one's parent by first financially supporting them in their time of need.

"JESUS SAID TO THEM, ALL TO WELL YOU REJECT THE COMMANDMENT OF GOD, THAT YOU MAY KEEP YOUR TRADITION. MAKING THE WORD OF GOD OF NO EFFECT THROUGH YOUR TRADITION WHICH YOU HAVE HAND-ED DOWN."¹⁷

I believe where Church tradition has abandoned the truth of God, Church leaders must abandon that Church tradition. We see a mass exodus today in many denominations because the traditions of men and God's truth are clashing. How many women have been held back because of the traditions of ignorant men

in the Church?

I am even shocked at our current discussion over President's Bush's faith based initiatives. Many talk as if government money is taboo. Yet some leaders don't make the same distinction when selling chicken dinners to the lost to finance ministry in the Church. Church leaders talk about the separation of Church and State as if it were some biblical truth the Church is to adhere to. The U. S. Constitution is not the Word of God! Sadly, many Church leaders are more loyal to their political party's agenda than God's truth. Church leaders must stand up and declare not traditional truth, not constitutional truth, not political truth but God's truth! David said, "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof; the world and all them that dwell therein. For He hath founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods."¹⁸

The Apostle Paul declared the truth regarding government, "Let every person be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God."¹⁹

→ The truth is all the money (even government money) is God's money.

→ The truth is the separation of church and state is not a biblical truth.

→ The truth is God is the one that has established government for the good of a people.

→ The truth is the only time Church leader should oppose the laws set forth by government is when those laws will cause us to directly disobey the truth of God.

Church leaders must pray to be led by God's truth today. God's truth is found in the Person of Jesus Christ and His written revelation, the Word of God. Let us pray and seek God's truth in order to speak the truth in love in love because only God's truth can set people free.

YOU ARE THE GOD OF MY SALVATION

David declares the reason why he prays for God's ways, God's instruction, and God's leadership. Why? God Almighty is the God of his salvation. God is the source of his liberty, redemption, welfare, deliverance, prosperity, future,

help and healing.

Church leaders should pray like David prayed recognizing to Whom it is we are directing our prayers. David said, "And those who know Your name will put their trust in You; For You, Lord, have not forsaken those who seek You."²⁰

ON YOU I WAIT ALL THE DAY

For You are my

RIGHTEOUSNESS, SANCTIFIER, PEACE, HEALER, PROVISION, BANNER & SHIELD, SHEPHERD

A Church leader's prayer is

**"SO SHOW ME YOUR WAYS
TEACH ME YOUR PATHS
LEAD ME IN YOUR TRUTH!"**

AMEN!

¹ James 1:5-6 NKJV

² Richard Foster, *The Celebration of Discipline*, (San Francisco: Harper Collins Publishing, 1978), 33.

³ Reggie McNeal, *A Work Of Heart*, (San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2000), xiv.

⁴ Jeremiah 3:15 NKJV

⁵ Philippians 3:18-19 NKJV

⁶ Gardner C. Taylor, *Quintessential Classics, 1980 - Present*, edited by Edward L. Taylor, (Valley Forge: Judson Press, 2000), 119.

⁷ Ibid, 119-120.

⁸ The New National Baptist Hymnal, *The Way of The Cross Leads Home*, (Nashville: National Baptist Publishing Board, 1977), 400.

⁹ 1 Samuel 13:14 NKJV

¹⁰ John 14:6a NKJV

¹¹ Sing His Praise, *The Way Of The Cross. Leads Home*, (Springfield, Missouri: Gospel Publishing House, 1991), 312.

¹² The New National Baptist Hymnal, *Teach Me Your Way O' Lord*, 472.

¹³ Psalm 119:67, 71 NKJV

¹⁴ Psalm 199:66 NKJV

¹⁵ Job 13:15a NKJV

¹⁶ John 14:6 NKJV

¹⁷ Mark 7:9, 13 NKJV

¹⁸ Psalm 24:1-2 KJV

¹⁹ Romans 13:1 NASB

²⁰ Psalm 9:10 NKJV



The Prayer Line

Rev. David K. Miles M.Div.
919-264-9249 9pm - 7am

Faith and Health Initiative

Submitted by Anita P. Holmes, JD, MPH,
Executive Director

Faith and Health Initiative (FHI)



Dr. Anita Holmes

The Faith and Health Initiative provides a risk reduction/primary prevention program through participating churches funded by The Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust Fund. The project seeks to significantly change risk behaviors

through initiatives to (1) encourage nutritionally sound dietary practices (e.g., reducing salt, sugar, and saturated fat) and (2) increase physical activity and exercise in culturally friendly ways. Lay leaders are utilized to motivate and mobilize congregation members. Specifically, the Convention's Faith and Health Initiative focuses on four GBSC associations located in Granville, Franklin, Vance and Warren Counties. These four associations are comprised of 88 churches serving approximately 19,000 congregation members. To date there are a total of 25 churches participating with the Faith and Health Initiative. Other churches/congregations beyond the host or lead churches benefit from GBSC projects. For instance, members of area churches of diverse denominations often participate in project activities.

Activities of the Faith and Health Initiative (FHI)

The activities and strategies incorporated in the FHI were designed to develop, support, and sustain a wellness ministry within participating congregations and Associations.

Goals:

- Increase the number of persons practicing the maintenance of healthy lifestyles.
- Reduce the physical, psychological, and economic toll of chronic conditions influenced by dietary patterns and physical activity.
- Develop and test a risk reduction and health promotion behavior program, targeting dietary practices, exercise and physical activity in selected GBSC Associations and churches.
- Institutionalize the model into Association and congregational structures.

August 16 & 23, 2003 the Faith and Health Initiative conducted the Advocate Training in the Education Room at Granville Medical Center in Oxford. As

you are well aware, holding a successful event requires both your attendance and your participation. The training provided the necessary opportunities for advocates to learn how to implement their respective faith and health program with their church community. The training provided the Faith & Health Advocates with four training curriculums: An Introductory Guide to Faith & Health Initiative, Faith & Health, Physical Activity, and Nutrition. Training was provided by the GBSC Office of Health & Human Services Faith & Health Initiative. Program Coordinator, Latasha Sanders coordinated the training. Guest presenters included Ms. Jackie Sergeant with the Granville County Health Department, provided training on the Nutrition Module, Reverend William Kearny, one of the Associate Pastors with Coley Springs, provided training on the Physical Activity Module, and Pastor James Jones, Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church, Lewiston, NC, provided the training for the Faith & Health curriculum.

At the end of the training, Faith &

Health Advocates were able to:

- Establish a Faith and Health Advisory Committee in their church;
- Provide nutritionally appropriate food choices at church events and education on choices;
- Provide appropriate stretch breaks at participating Association meetings and church services;
- Increase the skill level of selected lay leaders in their church to educate, mobilize and organize other congregation members to participate in nutrition and exercise initiatives.
- Increase by at least 10% the number of participating congregation members engaged in recommended levels of physical activity.

Participants included: Mildred Williams, United Shiloh Association, Spring Green Baptist Church, Derris Lindsay Pastor; Sedell McCloud, United Shiloh Association, Spring Green Baptist Church, Derris Lindsay Pastor; Sandera Durham, United Shiloh Association, Mt. Olive Baptist Church, Melvin B. Solomon Pastor; Annie McCoy Bullock, United Shiloh Association, Mt. Olive Baptist Church, Melvin B. Solomon Pastor;

Laura F. Powell, United Shiloh Association, Olive Grove Baptist Church, Charles E. Walton Pastor; Mary A. Walton, United Shiloh Association, Olive Grove Baptist Church, Charles E. Walton Pastor; Magnolia H. Williams, Middle Baptist Association, Big Ruin Baptist Church, Dr. Clyde B. Walton Pastor; Ralph C. Glover, Middle Baptist Association, Big Ruin Baptist Church, Dr. Clyde B. Walton Pastor; Thomas Yancey, Middle Baptist Association, Philadelphia Baptist Church, Waverly Mills Jr. Pastor; Joyce Yancey, Middle Baptist Association, Philadelphia Baptist Church, Waverly Mills Jr. Pastor; Julia Foster, Middle Baptist Association, Philadelphia Baptist Church, Waverly Mills Jr Pastor; Barbara Strong, County Line Association, Micheal's Creek, Micheal Epps Pastor; Alfred Toler, County Line Association, Huntsville Baptist Church, R. N. Holloway Pastor; Mary Epps, County Line Association, Huntsville Baptist Church, R. N. Holloway Pastor; Walter E. Watkins, County Line Association, Huntsville Baptist Church, R. N. Holloway Pastor; Shirley Alston, Franklin Association, God's Vision, Sidney E. Dunston Pastor; Joyce Johnson, Franklin County, God's Vision, Sidney E. Dunston Pastor; Pattie Jones, Franklin Association, Nelson Baptist Church, Emma Solomon Pastor; Brenda Hamilton, County Line, Morning Star Baptist, Adolphus Smith Pastor; Emma Williams, United Shiloh, First Baptist Church, Lacy Joyner Pastor; William Kearney, United Shiloh, Coley Springs, Carson Jones Pastor; Arconstar Kearney Powell, United Shiloh, Coley Springs, Carson Jones Pastor; Ester T. Lynch, Franklin Association, Nelson's Chapel, Emma Solomon Pastor; Beverly Tunstall, County Line Association, Micheal's Creek, Micheal Epps Pastor; Antoinette Green, County Line Association, Mt. Spring Baptist Church, George Bullock Pastor.

Other participants included Ms. Marian Burch, Facilitator with United Shiloh Association; Ms. Annie Perry, Facilitator with Franklin Association; Ms. Sarah Lemay with Middle Baptist Association; Rev. Mary Crispell with County Line Association; Rev. Charlotte Cooper, Faith & Health Advocate with United Shiloh Association.

For additional information or to request training curriculums for your church family, you may contact the Faith & Health Initiative Program Coordinator, Latasha Sanders at the following:

GBSC Office of Health & Human Services
200 Meredith Drive Suite 103
Durham, NC 27703
919-572-6374, Ext. 3 - 919-484-4826 (Fax)
latasha.sanders@c4hh.org

Heart Healthy Recipe

American Heart Association

Fighting Heart Disease and Stroke

BAKED DIJON CHICKEN

Serves 4

- 1 lb. boneless, skinless chicken breasts or turkey breast tenderloins, all visible fat removed
- 1 tablespoon Dijon or coarse-grained mustard
- 2 teaspoons lemon or lime juice
- 1/2 teaspoon bottled minced garlic
- 1/8 teaspoon black pepper

Preheat oven to 375°F. Rinse chicken or turkey and pat dry. In a small bowl, stir together remaining ingredients. Arrange chicken or turkey in a single layer in a glass-baking dish. Spread mustard mixture over the top of each piece. Bake, uncovered, 15 to 20 minutes, or until chicken or turkey is tender and no longer pink.

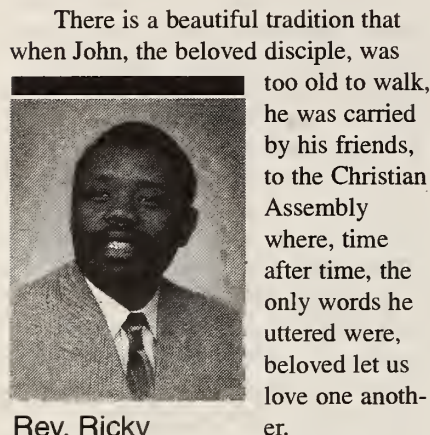
Microwave Method: Prepare recipe as directed above except arrange chicken or turkey in a single layer in a baking dish, placing thicker portions toward the outside edge of the dish. Cover with wax paper and cook on 100% power (high) 3 to 4 minutes. Give dish a 1/2 turn. Re-cover and cook on high 3 to 4 minutes, or until chicken or turkey is tender and no longer pink.

Calories: 137 kcal	Protein: 25 g
Carbohydrates: 1 g	Total Fat: 3 g
Saturated Fat: 1 g	Polyunsaturated Fat: 1 g
Monounsaturated Fat: 1 g	Cholesterol: 62 mg
Sodium: 104 mg	

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Thought For The Month: "The Bond of Fellowship"

By Reverend Rickly L. Banks



Rev. Ricky Banks

There is a beautiful tradition that when John, the beloved disciple, was too old to walk, he was carried by his friends, to the Christian Assembly where, time after time, the only words he uttered were, beloved let us love one another.

For three years Jesus

taught his disciples "to love" by miracle and parable, by prayer and sermon. At the last supper with the disciples he said, a new commandment I give unto you, and behold it was the old one, that ye love one another. After his resurrection, He met His disciples on the beach and to sorrowful Peter he said, Simon, lovest thou me?

Love is the chief of the Christian graces. It is the keystone in the arch of Christian brotherhood. It opposes pride, haughtiness, injustice, unkind and

Verse For The Month:
For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.

I John 3:11.

ungenerous words, sharp and offensive acts. Instead love suffers long and is kind; love envies not; love makes no parade, is not puffed up, is not rude, nor selfish, nor easily provoked. Love bears no malice, never rejoices over wrong-doing, but rejoices when the truth rejoices. (I Cor. 13:4-7).

We bring good news from our

Central Children's Home. Things are going well, and God is still in control. The home is up in population, services provided have greatly improved, the transitional classroom should be in place by the holidays, and the accreditation process is being worked out. We ask for your prayers and we ask for your support and remember to include us in your upcoming budget. Please call us if we can be of service to you at (252) 335-5003 or (252) 339-3438. May God's Best Be Yours.

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Reverend Jesse Jackson



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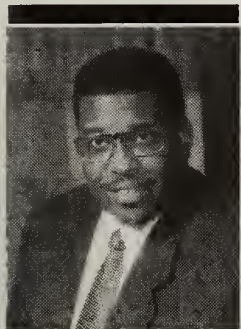
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Proclaiming the King of Kings In the Queen City

By Dr. Leonzo Lynch



Dr. Leonzo Lynch

To the Churches of the General Baptist State Convention of NC, Inc.:

Greetings to you in the matchless name of Jesus, who is the Author and Finisher of our very faith!

Grace and

peace be unto you.

Excitement builds as time draws near for the **136th ANNUAL SESSION**, to be held at the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Charlotte, North Carolina. It promises to be a wonderful time of fellowship as well as worship and praise to Almighty God.

In regard to the *Opening Worship* and the *Lord's Supper* on Monday, October 27th at 8:30 p.m., ministers are asked to wear their white Communion robes and white gloves for this worship service. All deacons are asked to wear dark suits and sit together with the other deacons in attendance. In addition, all

deaconesses are requested to dress in white and sit with the other deaconesses in the area designated.

Please feel free to call me at (704) 598-2219 if you have questions. I look forward to seeing you here in the "Queen City" in October as we gather for this Annual Session. May His continued grace and peace rest upon this

great Convention!

Because of Calvary,
Dr. Leonzo D. Lynch
Host Pastor
3rd Vice President
General Baptist State
Convention of NC, Inc.

New Faculty and Staff

By Regina Boone

President Clarence G. Newsome and Dean J. T. Roberson are pleased to announce the hiring of new faculty and staff at the Shaw University Divinity School (SUDS) as noted below:

Homiletics Professor

Dr. Reginald Van Stephens has joined the Shaw University Divinity School as a full time faculty member effective this Fall. Dr.

Stephens will serve as Professor of Homiletics. He will oversee the development of the School's new concentration in Homiletics and will also teach the courses required for that area of study. Dr. Stephens is the esteemed pastor of White Rock Baptist Church in Durham, NC, where he has served for eight years. He is a graduate of United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio, where he received his Doctor of Ministry degree. Dr. Stephens is a noted and respected homiletician across the country and is in demand as a preacher. He brings a wealth of knowledge and experience that will enhance the Homiletics program and expose students to advance preaching.

Project Manager

The Reverend Linda Bullock-Vanhook joined the SUDS HIV/AIDS Prevention Project staff on July 1st. Reverend Bullock-Vanhook is an Associate Minister at Mt. Level Missionary Baptist Church in Durham, NC, where she serves as Assistant Teacher of the New Members Class,

Chaplain of the Missionary Department, and member of the HIV/AIDS Ministry, Prison Ministry and

Higher Ground Prayer Ministry. Rev. Bullock-Vanhook holds a Master of Divinity degree from the Shaw University Divinity School, and the Master of Science and Bachelor of Science degrees from Hampton University (formerly Hampton Institute) in Hampton, VA. As a professional Nurse Practitioner, Rev. Bullock-Vanhook managed the care of patients diagnosed with HIV/AIDS. She brings a wealth of experience that will further enhance project development. Reverend Bullock-Vanhook is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the Project, including scheduling and presenting workshops. She can be reached at (919) 716-5522 or (919) 546-8570.

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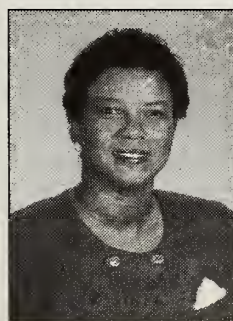
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Education Dept., ABC Radio Networks Launch Education Campaign

Submitted by Carol J. Smith,
Managing Editor

Secretary of Education Rod Paige recently announced a new partnership with ABC Radio Networks to help inform the African-American community about the historic *No Child Left Behind Act* through a new national radio campaign entitled, "Closing the Educational Achievement Gap".



Carol J.
Smith

"We have an education emergency in the United States of America. Nationally, blacks score lower on reading and math tests than their white peers. But it doesn't have to be that way. We need to collectively focus our attention on this problem – all children can learn. We have to make sure that every single child gets our best attention. We also need to help African-American parents understand how this historic new education law can specifically help them and their children. For this reason, we have formed a partnership with ABC Radio Networks' Urban Advantage Network to help inform parents that their child can get the best education possible," said Paige. "The *No Child Left Behind Act* is the tool to make that happen."

The historic, bipartisan *No Child Left Behind* allows parents to take charge of their child's education by asking questions, getting real answers and

making changes in their children's education. As part of the campaign, all 240 ABC Radio's Urban Advantage Network affiliates will air detailed messages about bridging the achievement gap between African-American students and other students of different ethnic backgrounds. In addition, the messages will give tips to parents informing them on what steps to take to ensure that their child is not left behind. The spots will feature Secretary Paige in a 30-second message emphasizing the importance of this problem and how parents may be eligible for free, government-sponsored tutoring or other extra help.

"The 'Closing the Educational Achievement Gap' campaign is a step in the right direction to help inform the African-American community about their right to a quality education," said Traug Keller, president of ABC Radio Networks. "We are pleased to be working with the U.S. Education Department and anticipate a positive outcome during this national campaign."

The U.S. Department of Education is committed to eliminating the achievement gap between disadvantaged and minority children and their peers. To achieve this goal, *No Child Left Behind* requires schools to monitor the performance of various sub-groups of their students, including African Americans, Hispanics, and low-income students. Each sub-group must be making adequate yearly progress (as defined by the state) toward the goal of 100 percent proficiency on state standards in math and reading by the 2013-2014 school

year.

"ABC's Urban Advantage Network can be heard by 93 percent of all African-Americans every week, making it the perfect medium to provide vital information to the community," said Kevin Miller, senior vice president and chief marketing officer of ABC Radio Networks. "Urban consumers are loyal listeners who seek and receive a connection with the community through urban radio and personalities such as Tom Joyner and Doug Banks."

Under the *No Child Left Behind Act* of 2001, signed in January 2002, states and school districts will develop strong systems of accountability based upon student performance. The new law also gives states and school districts increased local control and flexibility, removing federal red tape and bureaucracy and putting decision making in the hands of those at the local and state levels. Parents of children from disadvan-

tagged backgrounds will have options under the new law to participate in public school choice programs or obtain supplemental services such as tutoring. Also, teachers around the country will be encouraged to use teaching methods based upon scientific research that show they have been proven to work.

ABC Radio Networks has about 4,800 affiliate stations reaching 127 million people age 12 and over each week. In addition to the Urban Advantage Network programs such as *The Tom Joyner Morning Show* and *The Doug Banks Morning Show*, other ABC programs include *Paul Harvey News and Comment* and *The Rest of the Story*, *Satellite Sisters*, *America's Most Wanted*, *Batchelor & Alexander*, *The Sam Donaldson Show*, *MoneyTalk with Bob Brinker*, and *American Country Countdown with Bob Kingsley*. Other ABC broadcast services include ABC News Radio, ABC Sports Radio, Radio Disney, ESPN Radio, syndicated music and talk programs, format specific production libraries and 11 ABC Radio 24-hour music formats.



GBSC UPCOMING SESSIONS 2003 - 2006

YEAR	CITY	HOST
MID-YEAR		
2004	Roxboro	Shady Hill
2005	Elizabeth City	St. Stephens
2006	Wilmington	Shiloh
2004 - July	All Baptist Assembly	Winston-Salem
ANNUAL		
2003	Charlotte	Ebenezer
2004	Salisbury	Mt. Zion Adjourn Session
2005	Asheville	Mt. Zion
2006	Raleigh	Martin Street
TRINITY SESSION		
2003	Charlotte	Second Calvary
2005	Fayetteville	Union Association
2006	Reidsville	Zion
EVANGELISM CONFERENCE		
2004	Greensboro	East White Oak
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Work-at-home scams hit out-of-work consumers when they're down

By Attorney General Roy Cooper

You may have seen the "work at home" signs while sitting in your car at a stoplight, or perhaps you've gotten a flier or an email touting an easy way to make money from the comfort of your own home. When the economy cools off, these work-at-home scams heat up, often targeting communities and consumers that have been hit hard by lay offs.

Work-at-home scams promise that you can earn a living by stuffing envelopes, putting together crafts, or starting your own web design or accounts receivable business at home. Regardless of what the ads and signs promise, the truth is that most work-at-home schemes don't work. With these scams, you'll lose money while the scammers get rich.

To avoid getting taken by a work-at-home scam, follow these tips:

- Never pay for information about a work-at-home offer, or for any kind of start-up materials, instructional booklets, or client lists. It's illegal for anyone offering a work-at-home opportunity to charge you an up-front fee before you can start working.
- Just because an ad appears in a reputable newspaper or magazine does not make the offer legitimate.
- Use common sense when evaluating these schemes. In this era of high-speed, automated printing and mailing equipment, it is unlikely that a company would pay several dollars for each envelope you stuff and mail by hand.
- Be skeptical of earnings claims. If you could really make that much money working from home, wouldn't more people be doing it?
- Ask detailed questions about what you will have to do to earn money through

the program. Who will pay you? Will you be paid on commission? Will you be asked to buy supplies or pay for postage? Will they send you a contract that puts everything in writing before you sign up?

- Think it over carefully before you pay. It is extremely difficult to get your money back once you've sent it. Many work-at-home scammers simply disappear after a few months, changing their company name and address so they can start the scam all over again.
- If you respond to one work-at-home advertisement, prepare for a flood of offers. These scammers tend to share names and addresses with each other.
- Watch out for other scams that claim you can earn easy money during tough economic times. Be cautious about opportunities to buy into a lucrative new business or promises that you can make back your "investment" by recruiting new

members to pay into the scheme. With business opportunity scams, pyramid schemes, multi-level marketing ventures and gifting circles, you are highly unlikely to ever make a profit.

• To check up on a work-at-home or a get-rich-quick pitch, call my Consumer Protection Division at (919) 716-6000. You can also contact the Secretary of State's office at (919) 807-2156 to see if a business opportunity is registered with them as required by law.

Attorney General Roy Cooper and his staff are on the lookout for scams that seek to rob unsuspecting North Carolinians. We are here to be of service when you need us, but through consumer education efforts like these columns we hope to help consumers avoid problems from the start.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE STATE

Banks attends Deacon's Convention

By Rose M. Hofler, Board Member

The 69th Annual Session of the National Baptist Deacon's Conventions of America, Inc. and its Auxiliaries convened Sunday, July 20-25, 2003 at the Renaissance Suites Hotel, Charlotte, NC.

At the Sunday evening President's Reception held at 6:00 p.m. all delegates were welcomed. Daily prayer and praise services at 5:00 p.m. were a special blessing to over 400 present.

The official opening was Monday at 7:00 p.m. with over 1500 delegates present.

Tuesday at 5:00 a.m. Prayer and Praise was followed by Prayer Breakfast, Jennie Hall Bible Class and General Business and Workshops. Holy Communion at 7:00 p.m. was a spiritual blessing for the 2800 delegates in attendance.

Wednesday 5:00 a.m. - Prayer and Praise, Jennie Hall Bible Class and Workshops. A symposium on Alzheimer's Disease was presented by the Health Care Ministry. Annual Women's Day Session convened at 2:00 p.m. with the annual address by the President Joan Hill. At 7:00 p.m. the annual Memorial Service and Annual Address by President Robert Williams were heard. The grand march of the States was the financial highlight of the evening, with 1800 plus in attendance.

Thursday 5:00 a.m. - Prayer and Praise, Jennie Hall Bible Class, Workshops, Youth Sessions with the annual address by the President Kojo

Little. Installation of officers for 2003-2004 was at 4:00 p.m. At 6:30 p.m. the President's Annual Banquet was held. Rev. Ricky L. Banks, Moderator of the Roanoke Missionary Baptist Association and 4th Vice President of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina was the guest speaker for the 69th President's Banquet, given in honor to president of the Parent Body Robert Williams, President of Women's Auxiliary Joan Hill, and President of the Youth Department Kojo Little. The theme was "O Taste and See That the Lord is Good" (Psalm 34:8.) Moderator Banks selected for his text "God Did It", which was received with a standing ovation by the 300 plus delegates in attendance, praising the Lord.

The convention closed on Friday morning with Prayer and Praise at 5:00 a.m. Bible Class and Workshop summaries. Rev. Banks was welcomed to the Rose Hofler workshop classes Wednesday and Thursday and taught the "Faithfulness of God" to 67 class members. Certificates were awarded to the members on Thursday.

The 69th Annual Session of the National Baptist Deacon's Convention of America, Inc. Women's Auxiliary and Youth Department will be recorded as the most spiritual and blessed convention with the largest number of new members registered.

The 70th Annual Session will convene in 2004 in Daytona Beach, Florida.

50th Anniversary luncheon honors Rev. C.R. Edwards

The Rev. Dr. Chancy R. Edwards has faithfully served as pastor and pastor emeritus of First Baptist Church in Fayetteville for 50 years. On Saturday, October 11 at 1:00 p.m., the church will hold a Tributary Luncheon in his honor.

In 1953 Dr. Edwards preached his first sermon at First Baptist Church. He went on to serve as pastor for 37 years and pastor emeritus for 13 years. During those years his accomplishments have been numerous. He received the Doctor of Divinity Degree from Shaw University in 1963 for his outstanding work as a clergyman and leader. That same year a new church building was constructed in Fayetteville.

Dr. Edwards has served as president of the General Baptist State Convention and of the Lott Carey Foreign Mission Convention, and for several years he served as a NC State Senator from Cumberland County. During his ministry, he led the church to complete the Topeka Heights homes, a 150-unit com-

plex for low and moderate income people. It was the first of its kind in Cumberland County. And in 1974, another corporation was formed by the church under his leadership. That group, called the Christian Commitment Corporation, constructed an 18-unit housing complex for the elderly, called Edwards Place.

Dr. Edwards continues to participate in the life and support of First Baptist Church despite his busy schedule. His preaching and his continued fellowship with the church have meant so much to the disciples in the body of Christ at First Baptist.

The luncheon will be held in the Grace Place outreach center on the church grounds, 302 Moore Street, near downtown Fayetteville. Tickets for the Tributary Luncheon are available from First Baptist Church for \$15 and must be purchased in advance. Those interested in attending should call the church office at (910) 485-3025.



Pastor's Appreciation Held

On Sunday, July 13, 2003 members and friends of Best Grove Missionary Baptist Church, Goldsboro, NC, celebrated the Third Pastoral Appreciation of their pastor, Rev. Joe A. Jackson.

The Sanctuary Choir provided the music for the morning service. Evangelist Lillie S. Green presided over the service, doing a wonderful job. With prayers and the hymn "Great Is Thy Faithfulness", one could feel the very inspiring and soul filling service from the beginning to the final amen.

Rev. Ruth N. Segres, a member of the Chaplain's staff, Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, Goldsboro, was the morning guest speaker. Rev. Segres is a Captain in the United States Air Force. She was introduced by Minister Ralph Johnson, one of the Associate Ministers at Best Grove. Rev. Segres used as a subject "What A Recommendation". This was taken from Job, chapter 1, verses 6-12. She addressed the congregation with an informative message, which reinforced the role of members in the church. She implored the members to get rid of all things that are negative in their lives. This message was enjoyed by those in attendance.

After eating a scrumptious lunch, the afternoon service reconvened to show love and honor to Rev. and Mrs. Joe A. Jackson and their four children. Minister Ralph Johnson served as Master of

Ceremonies and music was provided by the Shady Grove Missionary Baptist Church Choir of LaGrange, NC. The appreciation sermon was by the Rev. Dr. Joseph W. Franklin, pastor of Mount Triumph Baptist Church, Boyce, Louisiana. God was in the midst of this service and all were truly blessed. Rev. Dr. Franklin preached from the subject "Called To Shepherd God's Sheep". His text came from John 21, verses 15-17. He really uplifted the name of Jesus and gave us a lot to think and ponder on. The message was very appropriate for the occasion.



Rev. Joe A. Jackson

We were blessed to have the following visitors with us, who were introduced by the Rev. Charles E. Franklin, Associate Minister – the Honorable Mayor Alfonza King of Goldsboro and Dr. Archie D. Logan, Jr., Executive Secretary of the General Baptist State Convention, who presented the guest speaker with a Life-Time Membership Pin to General Baptist and to Rev. Jackson, a Life-Time Membership Pin and a Certificate of Recognition signed by President Dr. Charles Bullock.

Gifts were presented to our Pastor and family. The church gave him a brand new elegant robe. Rev. Jackson was very grateful and humbled by the love shown by everyone and was thankful for the many kindnesses received and expressed. A reception was held immediately after the service in a beautifully decorated fellowship hall. Sis. Jeri Barnes served as chairperson for the lovely occasion.

Local Church Presents "God's Trombones"

By Deaconess Mary Drayton Sykes

The Progressive Missionary Baptist Church Players present "God's Trombones" on Saturday evening, October 18, 2003. The presentation will be at 7:00 p.m. at the church located at 2504 Creech Road in southeast Raleigh.

"God's Trombones" is one of the major presentations for the Founder's Day/Homecoming weekend honoring 16 years of the founding of Progressive Missionary Baptist Church by the Pastor, the Reverend William H. Brock, Sr. "God's Trombones" is a series of seven sermons written by James Weldon Johnson, including "The Creation", "The Prodigal Son", "Noah Built the Ark" and others. It includes rousing presentations of each sermon by

"preachers" in their own style. Great Spiritual and Gospel music accompany each sermon. The first production of "God's Trombones" for Founder's Day/Homecoming was in 2002 and was a great success.



On Saturday evening, October 18, from 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. meet and greet the cast of "God's Trombones" and enjoy chips and dip in the Church Fellowship Hall. The production immediately follows at 7:00 p.m. The Founder's Day/Homecoming events conclude on Sunday afternoon, October 19, 2003, at 4:00 p.m. when special guest preacher, the Rev. Dr. Joseph Jones, pastor of Zion Memorial Baptist Church, Winston-Salem, NC, along with his choir and congregation render the Homecoming service.

Annual Women's Day Celebration

On Sunday, October 17, 2003 Dr. T. J. Bryant, the newly elected President of Fayetteville State University, will be the 2003 Women's Day speaker at First Baptist Church in Bladenboro, NC where Gregory D. Taylor is the Pastor.

The theme for this year's celebration is *African American Women Cultivating and Building Legacies*. As the first African American woman to be selected as President in the history of the Fayetteville State University, Dr. Bryant was the obvious choice for

our program, said Reverend Taylor. The spirit filled occasion will begin with an Annual Prayer Breakfast at 8:00 a.m. followed by Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. and concluding with Worship Service at 11:00 a.m.

Pastor Taylor along with the First Baptist Church family extends an invitation to the entire community as we celebrate the women of our ministry and continue to build a legacy that will bring glory and honor to God through our Lord Jesus Christ. For more information, please call (910) 863-4028. ■

30th Pastoral Anniversary Celebration For Rev. Dr. John Dr. Fuller, Sr.

The 30th Anniversary Celebration for Dr. John D. Fuller, Sr. began with an Appreciation Banquet on Saturday, September 20, 2003 at the Crown Coliseum in Fayetteville, NC. The banquet speaker was the Rev. Dr. Thurman Everett, Housing Chairman of the General Baptist State Convention, Inc.

The Anniversary Celebration will conclude on Sunday, October 29, 2003 at Lewis Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, Fayetteville, NC with the 30th

Anniversary Worship Services. The speakers are:



Rev. Dr. John D. Fuller

7:15 a.m. – Dr. Gary Cannon, Pastor, Leach Springs Baptist Church, Raeford, NC;
8:30 a.m. – Dr. Dumas Harshaw, Jr., Pastor, First Baptist Church, Raleigh, NC;
11:00 a.m. – Dr. Clifford A. Jones, Sr., Pastor, Friendship Baptist Church, Charlotte, NC;
5:00 p.m. – Rev. Darryl T. Canady, Pastor, Jackson Chapel First Baptist Church, Wilson, NC.

Appreciation Program for Rev. Kevin Bellamy

Mt. Tabor Missionary Baptist Church Family extends an invitation to you to share in an Appreciation Program for Reverend Kevin Bellamy. The program will be Sunday, October 19, 2003 at 4:00 p.m. at Mt. Tabor Missionary Baptist Church, Cerro Gordo, NC. Reverend Oscar Blanks is the Pastor.

Reverend Kevin Bellamy, Assistant

Pastor, has been in the ministry for 13 years. He has proven himself a faithful diligent servant, deserving of recognition and appreciation.

If you would like to show some love and unable to attend, a contribution will be greatly appreciated (send to Mt. Tabor Missionary Baptist Church Appreciation Committee, Gloria Key, Chairperson). ■

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RURAL AFRICAN AMERICAN CHURCH

By Reverend D. S. Briggs

John L. Mason in his book **An Enemy Called Average** writes "Opportunity is always where you are, never where you were." One of the biggest frustrations both from personal experience and the numerous phone calls I receive from those who are frustrated with their current level of ministry in rural churches around this country is trying to work where you are when it seems like you are the only one working. Often you feel so isolated from your peers and intimidated by fellow pastors who are really "doing some great things" where they currently serve. While for you, just trying to implement a weekly Bible Study in your church has literally split the congregation. Where every Sunday is literally a referendum on whether you will serve one more week. Trying to see the opportunities that the Lord has at that particular place of ministry are often more challenging than finding the proverbial needle in the haystack.

However, beloved men and women of God, I write to encourage you that they do exist. If we would prayerfully seek the leadership of the Holy Spirit and move in His time, (regardless to how fast or slow that may be) not our own. We must not let the peers we share with, the people we serve, or the pastors we idolize push us outside of the timing and will of God. I have discovered and adopted the mantra that it does not matter if we take giant steps or baby steps as

long as we are taking steps forward and not backward. The prophet Jeremiah tells a people who had literally given up on God and given up on themselves due to the oppression of their captivity and their perception that God had forsaken them

to "Build ye houses, and dwell in them; and plant gardens, and eat the fruit of them; Take ye wives and beget sons and daughters; and take wives for your sons, and give your daughters to husbands, that they may bear sons and daughters; that ye may be increased there and not diminished." In simple terms Jeremiah literally told them to quit whining, complaining and moping around. Face facts, you are where you are, and you will be here until the Lord ordains otherwise. Therefore get to work where you are. Stop pining over your past and tend to today. Build a life. Establish yourself. Do something positive and productive. It is only when you commit yourself fully to where the Lord has placed you that the Lord will move.

This passage of scripture is a wonderful lesson to those of us who are struggling even as we read these words. Work where you are with what you have got, while you can. Your commitment to be faithful where you are will always preclude your much-anticipated release from the same place. The Lord will

either move you **in the midst of your situation, strengthen you to endure and prosper in spite of your situation,**

or He will move you out of the situation and send you elsewhere but He will move **if you commit to Him.** It should not matter to us as

"I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

men and women of faith whether or not the Lord strengthens us to withstand the storm, settles the storm, or saves us out of the storm, just as long as He stays with us in the midst of the storm. So let us begin taking baby steps.

There are four pillars or platforms that every pastor, regardless of location should ensure are operating at optimum efficiency and effectiveness at all times. While simplistic in their pronouncement, it is the process of development of these areas that can literally make or break a pastor, ministry, and/or church. In his book **Positioned for Promotion** Pastor Mac Hammond writes "As leaders we must focus on three areas: vision, communication, and motivation." These four pillars are vital to and address all three areas of focus. It must be stated that while the pastor must do everything in his/her power under the leading of the Holy Spirit to ensure faithful stewardship over these areas, the pastors **cannot do it by themselves.** The pastor should not be the "Lone Ranger" making decisions without communicating vision and purpose to the people. This is not necessarily for their agreement or vote but for information and comprehension. Nor should he/she be the proverbial "rubber stamp" to only grant religious sanction and authority to whatever has already been decided without his/her input advice and counsel. The sad thing is that we have both pastors and churches knowingly and cheerfully operating at both ends of these extremes and both are biblically wrong.

In order to be effective in this **K.I.S.S.** (Keep it simple saints) model of ministry there must be unity in thought, purpose, and procedure. It requires teamwork, training, partnership, friendship, fellowship, faithfulness, and most importantly an utter and total dependence on God to not only bring us together, keep us together, but to bring us through. If God cannot do it, who will? There is no such thing as any member of any church being pastor's boss or the congregation's bodyguard because they have to protect the church. What then is the Holy Spirit's job? Gamaliel was right in Acts 5:38-39 when he said "...if this counsel or this work be of men, it will come to naught. But if it be of God,

ye cannot overthrow it, lest haply ye be found even to fight against God." No such thing as being labeled the pastor's flunky or mistress because you support the vision that God has given the pastor. The Apostle Paul writes in I Corinthians 3:9 "For we are laborers together with God". Until we realize that we have to work together in that which is biblically right, there is no plan or model of ministry that will work at optimum levels.

The integrity and intertwined nature of these platforms demand that they must all be addressed and adopted by both pastor and people as a bare minimum for ministry. These are not the Vision but rather extensions through which the Vision will be imparted. These are instruments that God has given you to fulfill the Vision that He is unfolding to you. Certainly they must be primed and ready to operate properly. When they are in sync people will drive from up to an hour away, regardless of your location, just to be a part of your fellowship. Now these platforms exist only to assist in bringing them to Jesus, we do not make idol gods out of them. The Bible declares that "no man can come to me except the Father which has sent me draw him." Yet we have to admit that we (as a church) do too many things to drive away the same ones that the Lord is drawing, then complain that nobody is joining our church. Once the Lord draws them in other systems must be put in place such as New Members Fellowship, Christian Education, Internal and External Evangelism to ensure they remain in our fellowship as active members and intentional participants in the ministry. These areas are:

- Building
- Music
- Worship
- Preaching

I have listed these platforms not in their appropriate spiritual order, but rather the order that a non-believer will see them. Remember Christ said in St. Matthew 9:13 "I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." **The first thing anybody observes when they come to your church is the church itself!** The building...the grounds...the availability of parking, etc. They do not hear the sermon first. It can all go uphill or downhill from there.

Think and pray on these things. It is time to transform our little "bless me clubs" (according to Mac Hammond and Eddie Long) into vibrant churches that Christ intended us to be. Next month we will start to highlight these areas individually. If you desire to contact me, you may do so at (919) 688-3093 office, or e-mail me at stayblessed@consultant.com.

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By Dr. Donaldson Jones, President

Ezekiel the Entertainer

Of all the terms that one could use to describe the prophet Ezekiel, one would normally be hard-pressed to describe him as an entertainer! When we read of his visions of strange beasts, wheels in the middle of wheels, water flowing from the Temple and dry bones in a valley, one could easily label Ezekiel as a visionary. But in our text for this preaching moment, he is labeled as an entertainer!

Ezekiel was a younger contemporary of the prophet Jeremiah. Both of these men prophesied during the period prior to and in the time of the Babylonian Captivity. While Jeremiah remained in Jerusalem, Ezekiel ministered among the captives taken hostage and transplanted into the land of Babylon. During this time of trouble and turmoil, the Lord had appointed Ezekiel as a watchman over the house of Israel to warn them of approaching danger. However, because of the rebellious nature of the people, Ezekiel was stricken dumb and was only allowed to speak as he received oracles from the Lord. This enforced silence was to underscore Israel's stubborn refusal to take God's word seriously. And this condition was relieved only after the fall of Jerusalem. From that time on, Ezekiel was given messages of hope, which he continued to share with his fellow exiles. But even then, the people did not take the word of God seriously! Their flippant attitude toward God's word and the Lord's prophet is the subject matter of the text we are considering for this preaching moment.

Ezekiel had just received word, in verse 21, from those who had escaped the city, that Jerusalem had indeed fallen! It was then that the word of the Lord came to him and his mouth was opened and he was no longer speechless. His first message was to those back in Jerusalem who had evaded the Babylonian conquerors. These people thought that their evasion from captivity was a sign that they would indeed still inhabit the land, in spite of Jerusalem's fall. They reasoned that, if Abraham, a single individual, was given the land, how much more would they have a right to it because of their numbers. But they failed to recognize a basic and fundamental difference between them and Abraham: Abraham was righteous and they were wicked! Ezekiel reminded them of this basic difference by citing their sins and the consequences thereof in verses 25-29. After this, he turned his attention to those who were in exile along with him. It is of them that the Lord spoke to the prophet in verses 30-33.

Note, first of all, that it was the Lord who informed Ezekiel that the people were talking against and about him in the privacy of their domiciles. We need to understand that derogatory chats about the preacher around the dinner table is not

something that the Lord takes lightly! Yes! The people were talking about and against Ezekiel, but the Lord heard them

lips, but their hearts were filled with their own selfish greed! Yes! Don't you know some folks like that? They will greet you

"Also, thou son of man, the children of thy people still are talking against thee by the walls and in the doors of the houses, and speak one to another, every one to his brother, saying, Come, I pray you, and hear what is the word that cometh forth from the LORD.

And they came unto thee as the people cometh, and they set before thee as my people, and they hear thy words, but they will not do them: for with their mouth they shew much love, but their heart goeth after their covetousness.

And, lo, thou art unto them as a very lovely song of one that hath a pleasant voice, and can play well on an instrument: for they hear thy words, but they do them not."

Ezekiel 33:30-32 (KJV)

and told it to the prophet! It was these same people who would customarily come and sit before Ezekiel to listen to his prophetic utterances! The text says, "They come unto thee as the people cometh, and they sit before thee as my people!" Yes, these people were only coming because it was customary for them to come! You have some folks like that in the Church today! They don't necessarily come on Sunday morning for the sake of the Word! No! They have a different agenda! They come because they have always come! They come because it's fashionable to come! They come for the company of their friends and relatives! They come because everybody else comes! But when you come to church on Sunday morning, you ought to have a pure agenda! You ought to come, not for the sake of the choir! You ought to come, not for the sake of showing off your wardrobe! You ought not even come just to hear a certain preacher! You ought to come to hear a word from the Lord! I've been in this thing long enough to know that everybody who shows up on any given Sunday morning didn't come to worship or hear a word from the Lord!

Notice also that the Lord exposed their true motivation to Ezekiel. He said, "They hear thy words, but they will not do them: for with their mouth they shew much love, but in their heart goeth after covetousness." These people pretended to be interested in what Ezekiel had to say, but it was only a façade to mask their true concerns! They loved to hear the word, but they had no intentions of doing the word! And you know, we got some folk like that around the church-house today! They love to hear preaching, just for the sake of hearing it! These people in the text had hot lips and cold hearts! They talked a good game, but they had nothing to show for it! They spoke love with their

as a brother or sister to your face, but behind your back and in their hearts, they are cursing you! That's the way some church folks try to fool the pastor, especially when he's new! They will try to give him the impression that they are so holy; all this and all that! Little do they know that you really can't fool a true man of God! He may act as though he doesn't know so that you don't know that he knows! But if he is really called of God, the Lord lets him know who is for him and who is against him!

But not only did the Lord inform Ezekiel of the people's insincere motivations, the Lord also told Ezekiel how they really felt about his preaching and the message he was preaching! Listen to what the Lord told Ezekiel: "And lo, thou art unto them as a lovely song of one that hath a pleasant voice, and can play well on an instrument!" In other words, "Ezekiel, they don't really take your preaching or your messages seriously! To them, your preaching is no more than a lovely song! You are no more to them than just a skilled musician, one who can play an instrument and sing real well! When they come to sit before you, it is merely a source of entertainment for them! For they love to hear you, but they have no intentions of obeying you!" Well, there are a whole lot of folks in the church like that today! They look at the preaching of the Word and the Sunday morning worship service as just a source of entertainment! That's what's wrong today! Folk don't come to church to hear a word from the Lord; they come to be entertained! And it's sad to say, but there are some preachers that I know of who specialize in giving the people what they want! They specialize in just putting on a big show! Well, how can one differentiate between worship and entertainment? When you get "happy" only because of

how the preacher says it, rather than being able to rejoice over *what* the preacher says – to you, preaching is entertainment! When there is only a certain preacher with a certain sound, who can elicit an "amen" from you – to you, preaching is no more than entertainment! Yes! When you are more concerned about *how* the choir sings, rather than whether or not somebody gets saved – you just came to be entertained! Yes! If the worship service is more about how you feel than it is about what He wants – to you, it's just entertainment! Yes! When you like to hear the Word preached, but have no intentions of practicing what has been preached – to you, it's entertainment! And I'm mighty afraid that is where some church members are today! In most places, Sunday morning is not about worship, it's about entertainment!

Yes! They look at the preacher as merely an entertainer! Someone to make them *feel* good while they are on their way to Hell! Yes! They have devalued preaching and have devalued the preacher! In many places the Pastor's word is not regarded and respected as a word from the Lord, but rather as just another man's opinion about what the Bible says! Folks don't believe in preaching much these days! They will sit patiently for four hours in a gospel music concert, but those same folks will start looking at their watches and rattling their keys if the preacher goes over 45 minutes! Folk really don't want to hear good sound doctrine; they just want to hear doctrine that sounds good! They want the preacher to tickle their ears, but not tamper with their hearts! Folks just want to be entertained and they want their pastor to be an entertainer! But they don't want him to truly be prophetic or God's administrator! There once was a time when I used to sing more than I do now! But I quit singing so much, when I started to get more invitations to come, and sing than I got invitations to come and preach! I realized then that most church folks just want to be entertained.

But let me close now by saying that preaching is much more than just a form of religious entertainment! The Apostle Paul said that the preaching of the Cross was foolishness to those who didn't believe. But unto us who believe, it is the power of God unto salvation! Yes! "For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe." (1 Corinthians 1:221, KJV.) No! Preaching is not just entertainment and the preacher is not just an entertainer! Preaching is the method and the preacher is the mouthpiece in God's plan of salvation. "How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of

EZEKIEL, Cont'd on next page

"Associate Ministers - Who Are They?"

By Dr. James W. Smith,
Chairperson
Legal/Constitution Committee



Dr. James W.
Smith

Every once in a while, some minister, church member or even an Associate Minister will engage me regarding the duties or functions of an Associate Minister.

Questions are asked such as: What is the difference between an Associate Minister and an Assistant Pastor? What is an Associate Minister's duty and rights in the Church?

How often should the Pastor allow the Associate to preach? A member will even ask on occasions, "When is the Associate Minister going to preach?"

Congregations need to be educated and instructed that it is the Pastor's duty and responsibility to shepherd the flock. It is the Pastor's scriptural obligation to preach, teach and care for the flock. Now, the Pastor may ask someone else on occasions to help in this area. For some Pastors, Associate Ministers are a pest. For some Pastors, Associate Ministers are a blessing. It depends upon one's perspective and how he/she sees the role of the Associate Minister. Now let me emphasize that I would hope that all Pastors would see the Associate Minister as a blessing since we are all in this ministry together and working towards one goal. This article should not be taken

negative or as an indictment of Associate Ministers. As a matter of fact, all Pastors at one time or another have perhaps been an Associate Minister.

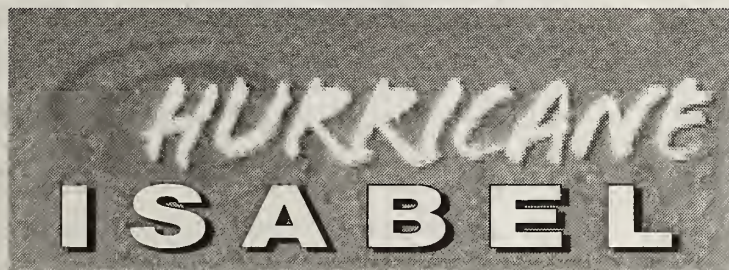
First, it is my understanding and belief that there is a difference between an Associate Minister and an Assistant Pastor. Associate Ministers are generally members of the Church or who have associated themselves with the church. It is not an appointed or elected office of the church. Assistant Pastors may or may not have been members of the church or associated with the church when called to the ministry and the position may be classified as an office. More importantly both serve at the pleasure of the Pastor to assist him/her by performing certain duties specified by the Pastor in keeping with the Word of God. In many churches, the Assistant Pastor may be a paid

position. An Associate Minister has no more authority and rights in the church than any other member. Having said this, the Associate Minister should recognize that the "call" itself bestows upon him/her everything that's needed.

I was asked to come and share with a church on the process of selecting a Pulpit Committee. We talked about how the Pulpit Committee should be diverse to include all elements of the church. Others felt that it should only consist of deacons and trustees. Interestingly, the church had a number of Associate Ministers and it seemed that many of them were asserting themselves in the position of the Pastor. Some of them thought that by virtue of their being the Associates, they should automatically take charge of the services until a Pastor was called. Of course, we dealt with all of these issues and the church selected a diverse Pulpit Committee. However, when the meeting was over, one of the deacons shared with me that he told the Associate Ministers that once they accepted the call, they gave up any rights to assert any authority or power in the Church. I thought that was rather harsh, but when I thought about it, the deacon may be right. Their authority and rights are no more than any other member of the church.

If I can be of service to you, please do not hesitate to contact me.
Dr. James W. Smith, Chairperson
Legal/Constitution Committee
General Baptist State Convention of NC, Inc.
146 President's Drive
Durham, North Carolina 27704
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Email: jsmith9450@aol.com

GENERAL BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION responds to



From GBSC President Dr. Charles T. Bullock

Blessings and Peace! Thursday, September 18, 2003, Hurricane Isabel caused great damages to Northeast North Carolina. We lost several GBSC Churches and many families are still without power. Dr. Thurman B. Everett, Executive Secretary-Treasurer Logan, Rev. Dennis Brown and I traveled to the affected area, September 24, 2003. We took a truck & van load of water and food supplies to Murfreesboro, Ahoskie and Windsor, N.C.

Three GBSC Associations have set up centers in the affected areas to respond to the crisis. The distribution centers are: North Hampton County Association, Nebo Baptist Church, Murfreesboro, N.C., Moderator Robert Holloman, 252-332-2738; West Roanoke Association, Moderator Ralph White, 252-794-9173, 242-794-4974; Roanoke Association, Moderator Ricky Banks, 252-335-5033, 252-339-3438; New Ahoskie Baptist Church, Rev. Patrick Young, Pastor, 252-332-4357, 252-347-2330 and Oxley Hill Missionary Baptist Church, Rev. Vonner G. Horton, Pastor, 252-4820-8476, 252-482-3179.

We are a faith community and believe that God is Able to bless in any situation. We know that together we can overcome this tragedy and disaster. We will look to God, God is our strength and strong arm of protection: Read, PSALM-27. We ask that our churches and prayer teams continue in special prayer for the recovery of those affected by Hurricane Isabel. If you or your congregation want to help PLEASE make contributions and send food and water to the centers directly. Please respond as soon as possible.

DONATION NEEDS

- Cash Contributions
- Bottled Water
- Toiletries
- Baby Food (sealed)
- Baby Formula (sealed)
- Diapers (all sizes)
- Canned Goods

Praise God - Keep The Faith!

EZEKIEL, Cont'd from page 30

whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? As it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the Gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!" (Romans 10:14-15, KJV.) Yes! The Lord still works through the preacher! His voice is still audible in the preaching of the word! The preacher is the Lord's mouthpiece and preaching is the method for the message! We need to be careful that we don't disrespect the mouthpiece or the method! The preacher is not just an entertainer and preaching is not just entertainment! Therefore, I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ! For it is the power of God unto salvation to all that believe!

J.J. JOHNSON BAPTIST ASSEMBLY INFORMATION

The Site:

The J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly is a tract of land comprising seventy-five (75) or more acres, much of which is covered with a mixture of North Carolina Pine, red and white oak trees. The location of the Baptist Assembly is on more than 75 rolling acres in Laurel Hill, North Carolina in Scotland County.

In 1967, approximately two-thirds of the acreage was donated by Dr. and Mrs. Joy J. Johnson and their daughter, Deborah (Mrs. Alexander Killiens). Additional acres were purchased by the Woman's Convention and General Baptist State Convention.

Our Purpose:

The purpose of the J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly in Laurel Hill is to provide a setting that is Christian in its atmosphere and is conducive to learning, worship, and meeting the needs of all individuals whom we serve. It seeks to provide opportunities for everyone to learn habits of good citizenship, and it provides at the same time opportunities to reach a maximum potential for Christian fellowship and fun experiences through democratic ideals and living.

The facility exists for the exclusive use by religious groups and/or organizations with similar aims regardless of ethnic origin.

Meeting Facilities:

At the J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly, there are various meeting facilities available. Listed below are the seating capacity (theater style) and lodging:

♦ Rowan Association Chapel	Seating Capacity: 300-400
♦ Horne Lodge	Seating Capacity: 20-25, Sleeps 12
♦ Alston Lodge	Seating Capacity: 100, Sleeps 64
♦ Lumber Bridge Association Lodge	Seating Capacity: 100, Sleeps 64
♦ Brown Assembly Dining Hall (Cafeteria Style)	Seating Capacity: 200

Individuals should bring their own linen, blankets, soap and other toiletries for the lodging facilities.

Current Annual Events

During the course of the year, the Conventional Family sponsors different ministries at the J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly. Among these are the following:

- ♦ Vacation Bible School (GBSC) – March
- ♦ Ministers' Wives Retreat (WBSC) – May
- ♦ Laymen's League Mini-Skills Retreat (GBSC) – May
- ♦ Leadership Training Conference (GBSC) – June
- ♦ Youth Bible Camp (WBSC) – June
- ♦ Laymen's League Boy's Summer Retreat (GBSC) – July
- ♦ Laymen's League Scouting Jamboree (GBSC) – August
- ♦ Laymen's League Men's Retreat (GBSC) – September
- ♦ North Carolina Branch of the 9th and 10th Calvary (Buffalo Soldiers) – October
- ♦ Usher's Retreat/Workshop (GBSC) – November
- ♦ Laymen's League Planning Session – December

The campus is available year round for meetings, weddings, banquets, family reunions, and other activities. Contact Rev. Eric Harris for the policies and procedures regarding each type of event.

*"And gathered them out of the lands, from the east,
and from the west, from the north, and from the south."*

Psalm 107:3

Send Applications & Funds to:
General Baptist State Convention
J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly
603 S. Wilmington Street
Raleigh, NC 27601

(Make checks payable to J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly)

Sources: "1974" Brochure and the J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly Guide And Handbook (1985).

ATTENTION!

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 - * Do you find yourself laboring hard and long preparing sermons?
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(where appropriate)
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Single copies are \$5 each. Anthology (Book of 26 Sermons) Volume I and Volume II, \$75 each. Shipping and handling charges will be added to all orders. Catalogs with listings are free upon request. Direct all questions and answers to:

MT. ARARAT BAPTIST CHURCH, INC., 2503 N. MYRTLE AVE.,
JACKSONVILLE, FLA. 32209

ATTN: SERMCO MINISTRIES, PASTOR D.A. LATTIMORE, JR.

904-354-7893 (CHURCH)

(FAX 904-354-5883)

NORTH CAROLINA BAPTIST USHER CONVENTION AUXILIARY TO THE GENERAL BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION OF N.C., INC.

Opportunity for service with the National Baptist Convention U.S.A., Inc. Ushers and Nurses Auxiliary

The National Baptist Convention Ushers' and Nurses Auxiliary are in need of a recording secretary. An usher or nurse who attends the convention, September Annual Session and Mid-Winter Board meeting in January. This is a voluntary service with an honorarium.

The requirements are:

1. Must be present at the beginning and ending of each meeting.
2. Must be on time for each meeting.
3. Must be able to record minutes in each session.
4. Give auxiliary president a typed copy of daily minutes each day.
5. At the end of each session, a compiled typed copy, sent to the president one week after the session is closed.

The person must be committed to the above requirements.

Please send a brief resume to:

Mr. Forest M. Eaves, Jr.

801 Walnut Ave. • Charlotte, N.C. 28208-4541

(704) 372-5338 • (704) 372-0014 – fax

CLASSIFIEDS

(PLEASE CONTACT CHURCHES FOR SPECIFIC QUALIFICATIONS SOME REQUIRE 3OR MORE YEARS PASTORAL EXPERIENCE, SEMINARY TRAINING, MISSIONARY BAPTIST ORDINATION, MUSICAL SKILLS) (FOR SPECIFIC CHURCH QUALIFICATIONS CONTACT THE PULPIT COMMITTEE)



Pastors

NAZARETH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH, Wagram, North Carolina – is currently accepting resumes for a Pastor.

Pastoral Qualifications and Duties:

A Born-again Christian
Licensed, ordained Baptist Minister
Five years of pastoral experience preferred
Serve as Senior Pastor
College degree – Some theological/seminary courses completed and training ongoing
Concerned with the spiritual and intellectual growth of the church
Ability to preach and teach God's Word

Must be willing to teach and follow the Baptist Doctrines, policies, and practices
Ability to carry out administrative, leadership, and counseling duties
Ability to work with all age groups in the church
Work cooperatively with church officials
Family and community-oriented
Teach Bible Study and attend Sunday School and prayer meetings
Good communication skills
Must be a good role model of moral and ethical conduct

All interested applicants should send a resume, personal references, and/or any other relevant information to:
**Nazareth Missionary Baptist Church
The Pulpit Committee
Attn: Deacon Harold Pipkin
Post Office Box 481
Wagram, North Carolina 28396**

MOUNT OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH, Albuquerque, New Mexico – The oldest Black Baptist church in New Mexico (an affiliate of The National Baptist Convention USA, Inc.) is currently seeking an experienced, born again, Bible believing ordained minister who is excellent with interpersonal relationships. All candidates must provide a proven record of active participation in their District Association, State and

National Convention. A proven record of growth and development of ministries at your previous/present church is required. All educational and personal experience that is spiritually based will be considered. A strong belief in Baptist doctrine, i.e., "The Articles of Faith" and the two ordinances: "Baptism by Immersion" and "The Lord's Supper" is a must. All interested candidates should forward a resume to **Mt. Olive Baptist Church, Attn: Search Committee Chairman, 2401 University Blvd. SE, Albuquerque, NM 87106. (505) 242-8331 (voice mail) and (505) 242-6244 (fax).**

ZION GROVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH, Aulander, North Carolina, is seeking a Pastor. We are accepting resumes from interested ordained Missionary Baptist Ministers. Please forward your resume to **Deacon Haywood Harrell, Zion Grove Missionary Baptist Church, Post Office Box 611, Ahoskie, North Carolina 27910.**

MALABY'S CROSSROADS MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH is now accepting resumes for a pastor. The ideal applicant must:
•be an ordained and licensed Missionary Baptist preacher,
•have an in-depth knowledge of and

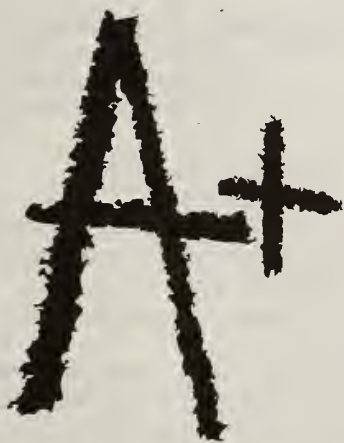
belief in Baptist doctrine,
•be led by the Holy Spirit,
•have at least 5 years experience as a minister (preferred),
•live a sincere Christian live,
•have strong, positive family values,
•be either currently enrolled in or have completed seminary training,
•have strong preaching and teaching ability,
•have a humble spirit, and
•attend all worship, Bible Study, and Sunday School sessions.

Interested applicants should mail packets containing resumes and the names and addresses of 3 references to the following address: **Malaby's Crossroads Missionary Baptist Church, c/o The Pulpit Committee, P. O. Box 648, Knightdale, NC 27545.**

WHITE'S CHAPEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH - Speed, NC, is currently accepting applications for a pastor with strong Missionary Baptist roots. The church is affiliated with the Old Eastern Missionary Baptist Association and the General Baptist State Convention of N.C. Interested applicants should provide the following:

Resume (including pastor experiences and educational qualifications)
A copy of religious credentials (license/ordination)
At least two personal references (no

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PULPIT VACANCY NEW LIGHT MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH HALLSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA

NEW LIGHT MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH IS NOW ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR A PASTOR. OUR WORSHIP SERVICES ARE EACH SUNDAY OF THE MONTH.

QUALIFICATIONS:

Must be a licensed ordained Missionary Baptist Minister.

- Full of Holy Ghost. Led by the Spirit of God in all matters.
- Full of wisdom, knowledge and understand the office of Pastor and performs it according to the scriptures and the needs of the church.
- Must be Association minded.
- Prefer having experience as a Pastor.
- The husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behavior.
- One that rules his own house, having a good report.
- Knows the doctrine of a Missionary Baptist Church
- Must attend meetings of different auxiliaries in the church to become familiar with the organizations, whenever possible.
- Must visit the sick and shut-in when possible.
- Must attempt to become involved with the various programs that the church participates in outside the home church calendar.

Send resumes and inquiries to:

**Deacon Kenneth Bracey
1025 Red Bug Rd.
Hallsboro, North Carolina 28442
910-646-4467**

CLASSIFIEDS

family)

Send information to: Deacon Joe W. Dickens, Jr., Chairman, Pastor Search Committee, White's Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, P. O. Box 296, Speed, NC 27881.

RIISING STAR BAPTIST CHURCH, Walnut Cove, NC, is accepting applications for the position of pastor. Interested applicants should send resumes to the Pulpit Search Committee at P. O. Box 966, Walnut Cove, NC 27052.

NEW ZION MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH - Charlotte, NC is currently accepting resumes for the position of pastor. Applicants must:

- Be born-again as evidenced by character, dedication and lifestyle
- Have personal stamina and enthusiasm to encourage the spiritual growth of the congregation
- Have vision for the future of the church - spiritual, physical, and financial growth
- Licensed, ordained Baptist minister
- Ability to preach/teach and have strong administrative skills
- Knowledge of Baptist doctrine, policies and procedures
- Have some theological courses completed or continuing
- Have an acceptable combination of experience and formal training

- Work cooperatively with church officials
- Produce legible copies of ministerial license and certificate of ordination
- Produce references that include name, address, and telephone number, (1) professional reference, (2) references from pastors familiar with your ministry.

Please mail resumes and other pertinent materials to: The New Zion Missionary Baptist Church, 217 West Todd Lane, Charlotte, North Carolina 28208, Attention: Pastor Search Committee.

Resumes must be received by December 30, 2003.

LINCOLN HEIGHTS MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH - Cincinnati, Ohio, is seeking a full-time senior pastor. We are a suburban congregation of 1,500 members who attract a diverse membership from surrounding suburbs and the Greater Cincinnati area. We seek an experienced pastor who is committed to carrying out our mission of evangelizing, equipping and empowering through preaching, teaching and ministering to our congregation. Demonstrated visionary leadership, strong commitment to family care (including youth and senior ministries), community outreach and building strong ministries and leadership teams are desirable. Seminary degree or

equivalent education is desirable, also.

If you feel God is leading you to this calling, please send inquiries or resumes to: Pastoral Search Committee, c/o Ulysses Rhea, 9991 Wayne Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45215; phone (513) 722-5422; fax (513) 552-3652.

HAYNES GROVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH - Cliffside, NC is currently accepting applications for a pastor. Interested applicants should respond to:

Haynes Grove Missionary Baptist Church

Attn: Deacon Eli Smith

Pulpit Committee

P.O. Box 651

Cliffside, N.C. 28024

CHAPEL HILL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH - Autryville, NC: seeks a pastor to serve as its spiritual leader, teacher, counselor, and administrator. Some requirements are as followed:

- Must be born-again as evidenced by character and dedication
- Licensed, ordained Baptist minister
- Ability to preach/teach and have administrative skills
- Five years of pastoral experience preferred
- Some theological courses completed,

and continuing

• Knowledge of Baptist doctrine, policies and procedures

• A resume, letter of interest, including a vision statement of their ministry

• Legible copies of ministerial license and ordination certification

• References: Include name, address and phone number, (1) Family reference, (1) Business reference, (1) Professional reference and (2) references from pastors familiar with your character and ministry

• Other criteria will be discussed during interviews

Please mail any applications/resumes and/or related material to:

Chapel Hill Missionary Baptist Church

Attn: Deacon Bobby R. McAllister

1450 Sivertsen Road

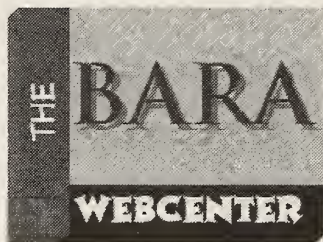
PO Box 434

Autryville, NC 28318-8064

Ph.: (910) 567-2961

POPLAR SPRINGS MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH of Roaring River, North Carolina is seeking a Pastor. We are accepting resumes from interested applicants. Qualifications:

- Must be a Born-Again Christian
- Licensed Ordained Minister, with certifications to prove it.
- Preferred Pastoral Experience



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To Minister, Trustee and Church Members,
Dear Christian Leader and Friends,

It is my hope that I will be a help to you in your next building project. Although you may not have a plan that exactly fits your needs, I may help you find a starting point to develop your own plan.

I have built and designed more than 45 churches in my 55 years of general contracting.

Church building should be compatible with their neighborhoods. The quality of construction, design, and landscaping should create a meaningful setting which is an inspiration to its members and the community.

When you consult with me, my first step is a detailed inquiry of the various programs at your church. This enables me to understand the main focus of your ministry and it helps you understand my services. Our first meeting is to get acquainted and find out your needs.

The second step is providing a master plan of your entire church property and renderings or models of the proposed buildings.

The third step is preparing your construction drawings which include:

1. Sound systems
2. Special lighting effects
3. Design plans
4. Structural design
5. Energy saving heating and cooling
6. Specifications (in laypersons language)

I have found that coordinating all of these design phases through one firm avoids costly delays, misunderstanding and mistakes during constructions.

There are many phases in church planning and design which require a specialist in that field. When you start your next building program, I hope you will give me a call.

At Your Service,
Thomas L. Jones

- Must be able to preach and teach, as well as communicate with all ages
- Strong leadership qualities.

Send resumes to:

Deacon Board
2265 White Plains Rd.
Roaring River, North Carolina
28669

MILL NECK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH – Como, NC: currently accepting applications for a Pastor with strong Missionary Baptist roots. We are affiliated with the West Roanoke Missionary Baptist Association and the General Baptist State convention. *Interested applicants should provide a resume to:* Carolyn M. Farrow, Secretary, Pastor Search Committee, Mill Neck Missionary Baptist Church, P.O. Box 68, Mill Neck Rd., Como, NC 27818.

BUNCOMBE BAPTIST CHURCH – Lexington, NC: accepting resumes from interested licensed ordained Missionary Baptist ministers.

Qualifications:

- Born again Christian
- Concerned with spiritual and intellectual growth of the church
- Ability to preach and teach God's Word

- Must be willing to teach and follow the Baptist Doctrines, policies and practices
- Ability to work with all age groups in the church
- Ability to carry out administrative, leadership and counseling duties
- Work cooperatively with church officials
- Family and community oriented
- Teach Bible Study and attend Sunday School and prayer meetings
- Theological and/or Seminary training preferred
- Good communications skills
- Must be a good role model of moral and ethical conduct

Please send resumes and inquiries to: Buncombe Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1533, Lexington, NC 27293.

GUILDFIELD M.B. CHURCH – New Bern, NC: currently accepting applications for a Pastor. Guildfield M.B. Church is an established church with a rich heritage in Eastern North Carolina. It is a growing congregation with active ministries focusing on the youth, senior citizens, the musical department, and Christian Education activities. Regular worship services are held every Sunday morning at 11:00 a.m. The church has

membership in the Old Eastern Missionary Baptist Association.

PASTORAL DUTIES

- Serve as Senior Pastor and preach the Gospel
- Provide insight for spiritual growth of the church and outreach efforts
- Plan and implement Christian education opportunities for the membership
- Serve as an ex-officio member of all church auxiliaries

• Provide leadership to associate ministers affiliated with the church

QUALIFICATIONS

- Must be saved and have a personal relationship with the Lord
- Must be ordained to preach and be able to serve as an administrator of a local congregation
- Must possess interpersonal skills that facilitate interaction with church members and various community resources
- Must possess leadership abilities
- Must have personal stamina and enthusiasm to encourage the spiritual growth of the congregation
- Must have at least two years of experience in church leadership in some capacity and some Bible school training

Resumes will be accepted until the position is filled. To apply, send resume to the attention of Mrs. Vesta Mullins, Chairperson of the Pastoral Search Committee, at the church's address. For more information call Rev. Carolyn Squires, Committee Co-Chairperson at 252-638-4726.

836 Green Street
P.O. Box 12881
New Bern, NC 28560
252-633-2388

UNION GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH, Warrenton, NC: currently accepting applications for a Pastor. Interested applicants should provide the following:

A Resume

Send information to:

Brother Alonza Jones, Board Chairman
Pastor Search Committee
Route 2, Box 128
Norlina, NC 27563

EBENEZER BAPTIST CHURCH – Neburgh, NY: currently accepting applications for Senior Pastor with strong Baptist roots. The Committee will provide each candidate with an application packet.

Send request to:

Ebenezer Baptist Church
ATTN: Deacon Milton
Buxton/Confidential
PO Box 248
Newburgh, NY 12551-0248

SHADY GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH – East Spencer, NC: currently accepting applications for a Pastor with strong Missionary Baptist roots. Interested applicants should provide the following:

1. A resume
 2. at least four references: (2) business (2) personal
 3. A copy of religious credentials: License/Ordination
- Send information to:
Shady Grove Baptist Church
ATTN: Clarence A. Jones, Chairperson
PO Box 447
East Spencer, NC 28039

GBSC Is Available To Work With Churches

By Dr. Archie D. Logan Jr.

Greetings! The General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina is available to work with your church during the time you do not have a Pastor. We will work with the Deacons and other officers to provide guidance as you search for a new pastor to lead your church.

Some of the things we offer:

- We have ordained Baptist ministers available to assist the Deacons in carrying out the Church Ordinances: Lord Supper and Baptism.
- We have ordained clergy who can serve as an "Interim Minister" in your church.
- Some suggested workshops:

- ✓ How To Select An Interim Pastor?
- ✓ How To Call A Pastor?
- ✓ How Much Should We Pay Our Pastor?
- ✓ Church Administration
- ✓ How To Plan A Church Budget
- ✓ Effective Bible Study
- ✓ Evangelism Classes
- ✓ Special Training For Deacons/Trustees
- ✓ Christian Education Planning
- ✓ Church Development

Please call if you are interested in any of these services!

1-800-639-GBSC (4272)

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MOUNT CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH - Shelby, NC: currently accepting applications for a pastor with strong Missionary Baptist roots. The Church is affiliated with the Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Association, and the General Baptist State Convention of N.C. Interested applicants should provide the following:

Resume (including pastor experiences and educational qualifications)

A copy of religious credentials (license/ordination)

At least three personal references (no family)

Send information to:

Pastor Search Committee

Mount Calvary Baptist Church

P.O. Box 3181

Shelby, N.C. 28151-3181

HOPPERS CHAPEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH - Shelby, NC: now accepting resumes for the position of pastor. Potential candidates must be a born again Christian with strong Baptist roots. Hoppers Chapel is a member of the Ebenezer Baptist Association. All applicants must possess the following qualifications.

- Must be ordained and licensed
- Must have at least 1 yr. Pastoral experience
- Must provide credentials of theological training
- Must be an effective teacher and counselor
- Must possess extensive knowledge of Baptist Doctrine
- Provide a mission statement for the church
- Live in close proximity to the church

The applicant must have the ability to plan and implement a growth strategy for both the spiritual and physical growth of the church.

Send all resumes to:

Hoppers Chapel Missionary Baptist Church

C/O Pulpit Committee

415 West Graham St.

Shelby, N.C. 28150



BASIC REQUIREMENTS FOR SERVICE:

1. Born-again Christian, Spirit-filled, and divinely gifted in music ministry.
2. Willingness to spiritually align the music ministry with Pastoral vision.
3. Able to play the piano, keyboard and/or organ; able to read music and versatile.
4. Able to prepare choirs for Sunday morning worship services and other

services.

5. Able to teach, as, well as direct choirs, with humility and love.

6. Able to rehearse with all choirs on schedule, and available for all Sunday services.

7. Able to accompany Pastor and choirs to other services as required (or ensure qualified substitute is available).

8. Able to select appropriate hymns and songs for worship.

MINISTER OF MUSIC, FULL-TIME. EBENEZER MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH, Wadesboro, NC

Born-again Christian, Spirit-filled
Ability to read music and versatile
Willingness to align the music ministry with Pastoral vision
Ability to prepare choirs for Sunday morning worship services and other services

Ability to teach, as well as direct choirs, with humility and love

Ability to accompany Pastor and choirs at various engagements

Other duties as outlined

Please send resume to:

Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church
c/o Dr. W. W. Williams

612 Salisbury Street

Wadesboro, NC 28170

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - RALEIGH, NC is seeking a full time Minister of Music at it's location at 101 South Wilmington Street in Raleigh, NC. First Baptist Church is a historical black congregation organized at the North Carolina State House (now the Capitol) in 1812. This historical congregation seeks an individual who is willing to grow with its Pastor, Dr. Dumas A. Harshaw, Jr. and his flock. This position requires a music and worship leader who is spiritual and experienced in providing the total awareness of the movement of God's spirit in the assembly of God's people.

Principal Function: The Minister of Music at First Baptist Church is responsible to the Pastor and is supervised by the Pastor for the development and promotion of the entire music program.

Duties and Responsibilities: The duties and responsibilities are as follows:

1. Direct Planning, organizing, conducting, and evaluating of a comprehensive music ministry.
2. Supervise the work of paid or volunteer music staff.
3. Cooperate with the church process to enlist and train leaders for the church music ministry, including choir workers, song leaders, and accompanists for the church worship experiences.
4. Lead in planning and promoting a choir program, direct and coordinate the work of choir directors.
5. Arrange and provide music for wed-

dings, funerals, special projects, ministries, and other church-related activities upon request.

6. Plan, organize, and promote choir tours, mission trips, camps, festivals, workshops, clinics, and programs for the various choirs.

7. Develop and supervise a music library, and maintain materials, supplies, musical instruments and other equipment.

8. Keep informed on music methods, materials, promotion, and administration through continuing education and attending music workshops.

9. Prepare an annual music budget and manage the approved budget.

10. Assist the pastor in planning all services of worship, coordinate the music program with the church calendar and emphasize the church vision.

11. Lead in the development of a music academy.

12. Perform other duties as assigned by the pastor.

ST. JAMES BAPTIST CHURCH - Greensboro, NC: Seeks Minister of Music with the following requirements:

- Born-again Christian, Spirit-filled, divinely gifted in music ministry
- Willingness to spiritually align the music ministry with Pastoral vision
- Ability to play piano, keyboard and/or organ, ability to read music and versatile

• Ability to prepare choirs for Sunday morning worship service and other services

• Ability to teach, as well as direct choirs, with humility and love

• Ability to rehearse with all choirs on schedule, and available for all Sunday services.

• Ability to accompany Pastor and choirs to other services as required (or assure qualified substitute is available)

• Ability to select appropriate hymns and songs for worship

• Has the God given ability to work with diverse groups and personalities.

• Preferably a degree in music

• Must be trustworthy, punctual, and fair in all of service to the congregation

Duties include: Be prepared for worship service and rehearsals; Be on time for worship service and rehearsals; Make

sure instruments are in good condition at all times for performances; Have immediate access to "Baptist Hymnals" at all

times; Be receptive to spontaneous input of members; Have cordial spirit in presenting rehearsal strategy; Be flexible in presentation; Be mindful of time; Adjust

accordingly; Try to be available for engagements representing St. James outreach ministry; Implement new strategies and methods gradual, so growth can be achieved. All applicants send resume to:

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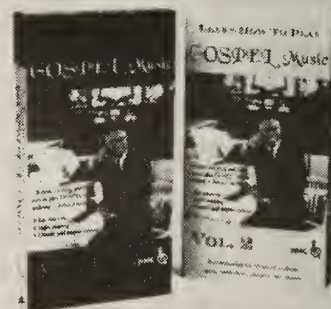
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CLASSIFIEDS

Attention Rev. King
and Music Committee
536 West Florida Street
Greensboro, NC 27406

MINISTER OF MUSIC WANTED SPRINGFIELD BAPTIST CHURCH

– Stanley, NC:

- A Spirit-filled leader – skilled in the Word
- Child of God
- Faithful and committed to God's program
- The gift to play by ear with or without the accompaniment of other musicians
- Has the ability to read and teach music
- Plays versatile music – which includes hymns, spirituals, contemporary gospel and praise songs
- Available to accompany the pastor and choirs to other churches when and as needed
- Available for all rehearsals and Sunday Worship service

Please contact: Melissa Fanning – (H) 704-563-3230 or Pastor Theodore Armstrong – Church 704-263-4426

MINISTER OF MUSIC NEEDED

– Wake Forest, NC: congregation seeks musician. 1) The duties include working directly with the Pastor in order to assist and cooperate with him in Christian Worship, 2.) Playing during Sunday morning worship service, 3). Rehearsing with various choirs one night per week, 4.) And accompanying the Pastor on engagements to other churches. Please forward a cover letter and resume to:

Evans Grove Missionary Baptist Church
12700 Creedmoor Road

Highway 50
Wake Forest, NC 27587
(919) 870-8874

MINISTER OF MUSIC VACANCY: THE SPRING GREEN MISSION- ARY BAPTIST CHURCH

– Warrenton, NC: seeks a Minister of Music to provide musical direction and accompaniment for 4 choirs in the church. This person will work closely with the Pastor to provide spiritual leadership in the ministry of Jesus Christ through music, i.e. hymns, spiritual songs, and praise and worship music that glorifies God.

We are accepting resumes from candidates with the appropriate qualifications. (Specific qualifications listed in beginning of staff musician section.) For additional information please send inquiry or resume to:

Spring Green Missionary Baptist Church
PO Box 924, Warrenton, NC 2589
Rev. Dennis G. Lindsay, Pastor

MUSICIAN NEEDED – Oakboro, NC:

Must be a Christian available to serve every Sunday. Prepare Choirs and Praise Team for Sunday morning worship. Rehearse with choirs on scheduled times. Be available to accompany Pastor and choirs to church functions. Direct congregation in congregational hymns. Must be able to play by ear as well as read music To apply call:

(704) 532-6813 or E-mail to Galilee, NC@aol.com

Galilee Missionary Baptist Church
PO. Box 644, Oakboro, NC 28129

CHURCH MUSICIAN VACANCY:
FIRST MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH – Selma, NC: seeks musician for youth choir. Must be a Christian with good character.

Requirements:

- Play the organ and piano
- Able to play sacred and gospel music
- Read music and have the ability to play by ear

Send resume to:

Reverend S. Manfred Isom, Pastor
415 Star Ruby Drive
Knightdale, NC 27545

MINISTER OF MUSIC NEEDED: THE PENN AVENUE MOUNT OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH

– Lewiston, NC: seeking a musician for a station church, a Christian, who is responsible, has good character and a good reputation.

Requirements:

- *Plays the organ and piano
- *Able to work with a diverse group of singers

*Experienced in all sacred music

*Reads music and is versatile in playing by ear

Send resumes or responses to:

Mount Olive Baptist Church
PO Box 214

Lewiston-Woodville, NC 27849
Attention: William W. Peele, Jr.

MINISTER OF MUSIC WANTED: THE PENN AVENUE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH – Oxford, NC:

currently seeking a Minister of Music.

QUALIFICATIONS:

(Specific qualifications listed in beginning of staff musician section.)

*Will be responsible with the pastor's approval in hiring other musicians if deemed necessary. Salary: Negotiable Sunday worship services. Service begins each Sunday at 11 a.m. with the exception of 5th Sunday services which begin at 10 a.m. Please send resume to the above listed address or inquiries may be made by calling one of the above listed numbers.

CHURCH MUSICIAN NEEDED

– Warren County, NC: Knowledge of music and the ability to play by ear is appreciated. Presently, morning worship service is held every fourth (4th) Sunday, but we are considering an additional Sunday for services. Must be able to play for youth choir and adult choir. Church is located in Warren County, North Carolina. For further information, please call: (252) 257-0221

MOUNT ZION FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH 320 W. Thomas Street • Rocky Mount, NC 27801


This is an appeal to any members, former members, friends and/or acquaintances of the Mt. Zion First Baptist Church, Rocky Mount, NC.

We, the Archives and History Auxiliary, would like to obtain copies of photos of all former pastors of Mt. Zion in an effort to honor these men of God with a Pastoral Gallery. We would like to dedicate the Gallery during our church's anniversary in November.

Anyone who has photos of former pastors and is willing to share them, please contact the church office (252-442-1627) weekdays between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. We need photos of the following pastors: 1st pastor - Cain Gibbs; 2nd - Cain Barnes; 3rd - George Norwood; 4th - George Smith; 5th - Simon Hicks; 6th - Daniel Martin; 9th - Nathaniel Marriot; 10th - R.A. Morrissey; and 14th - Rev. Hunter

Anyone who would like to send a copy of a photograph, please do so by mailing it to the above address, to the attention of Mrs. Nancy Gary Joyner, President of the Archives and History Auxiliary.

Thank You and God Bless!



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Benefit	Monthly Contribution	Annual Contribution	Company
Short Term Disability (1)	\$102.33	\$1,227.96	Golden State Mutual Life
Long Term Disability (2)	\$116.17	\$1,394.04	Unum Provident
Life Insurance (3)	\$20.31	\$243.72	Golden State Mutual Life
Health Insurance (4)	\$168.43	\$2,021.16	Fortis Health
Retirement (5)*	\$250.00	\$3,000.00	North Carolina Mutual Life

\$657.24

\$7,886.88

The above figures are for a 35-year-old female, non-smoker.
*Represents the maximum allowed of \$3,000

- (1) 30-day elimination period for sickness or accident. Benefit period – 6 months/\$2100 monthly
- (2) 90-day elimination period for sickness or accident. Benefit period to age 65 up to a maximum of 60%/\$2100 monthly.
- (3) \$50,000 20 year level term-life policy
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DISCLOSURE: THIS IS DESIGNED FOR ILLUSTRATION PURPOSES ONLY. THE PREMIUMS WILL VARY ACCORDING TO APPLICANT'S AGE, SEX AND HEALTH CONDITION.

CLASSIFIEDS

CHURCH MUSICIAN: THE CEDAR GROVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Gibson, NC: seeking a person to serve as Church Musician. Qualifications: (Specific qualifications listed in beginning of staff musician section.) Salary negotiable. Please send resume to Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Church at this address. Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Church 14600 Railroad St. Gibson, NC 28343

CHURCH MUSICIAN:

THE FRIENDSHIP MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

High Point, NC: accepting resumes for a Church Musician. Qualifications: (Specific qualifications listed in beginning of staff musician section.) Salary negotiable. 715 West Willis Ave. High Point, NC 27260

JEFFRIES CROSS BAPTIST CHURCH

Burlington, NC: Send cover letter and resume to Jeffries Cross Baptist Church, 2015 Jeffries Cross Rd., Burlington, NC 27217. Phone: 336-226-9626. We are currently seeking a musician who will work directly with the pastor to provide spiritual leadership in the music ministry. Qualifications: 1. A Christian with piano, keyboard, organ

ability; read music, play chords, teach harmony, direct choirs, conduct two rehearsals per month with four choirs, accompany pastor on engagements, accommodate traditional and contemporary worship styles.

CHURCH MUSICIAN - Hope Mills, NC: Swans Creek Missionary Baptist Church, North Carolina. Qualifications:

- *A Spirit-filled leader - devinely gifted in music ministry
- *Willingness to align the music ministry with Pastoral vision
- *Able to play piano, keyboard; able to read music and play by ear
- *Able to prepare choirs for morning worship service and other services
- *Able to rehearse with all choirs on a regular basis and available for all Sunday services
- *Accompany Pastor and choirs to other services

Please contact or send resume to: 2404 Swans Creek Church Rd., Hope Mills, NC 28348 (910)323-4595

MINISTER OF MUSIC NEEDED

Henderson, NC: congregation seeking a full-time minister of music, who will be responsible for directing, managing, and developing all functions and aspects associated with planning and implementing a comprehensive Church Music

Ministry. Must be available for all worship services and practices.

Send resumes or responses to:

St. James MBC, P.O. Box 2205, Henderson, NC 27536. Attention: William H. Clayton, II Senior Pastor.



Administrative

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR NEW HOPE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

, Charlotte, NC - is seeking a Church Administrator who is a spirit-filled leader to assist the Pastor administratively. Coordinates church administration and the business affairs of the church to meet the needs of a diverse and growing church membership.

Serves as liaison for the pastor to church staff, organizations, auxiliaries, committees and ministries.

Responsible for the planning, designing and implementing of procedures, programs, activities, and special events as directed by the Pastor.

Previous supervisory experience or related management skills. Ability to utilize excellent written and oral communication skills.

Ability to delegate, motivate, train and incorporate the many talents and skills of God's people.

Assist the Pastor in the evaluating of

organizations, auxiliaries and ministries of the church to ensure continuous improvement toward meeting our mission statement.

Familiar with various software programs designed for church administration use. Proficient in the use of Microsoft Office Products such as Word, PowerPoint, Excel.

Must have 3 - 5 years experience in church administration. Dedication to excellence and service with church related work, while maintaining the highest level of professionalism.

Please send resume to:

Mr. Chris Wright, 7111 Ludwig Drive Charlotte, NC 28215, 704) 532-1243



For Sale

CHURCH PEWS FOR SALE. Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church, Barbee Rd., Morrisville, NC has church pews for sale. There are fifteen (15) 8-ft. pews and twenty-seven (27) 6-ft. pews. All inquiries should be directed to Rev. McArthur Pettiford at (336) 570-9111, Trustee Herbert Barbee at (919) 469-3174 / (919) 274-6696 or Trustee Anthony Holland at (919) 474-3186 / (919) 454-6378.

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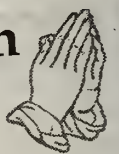
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of the
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Foreign Missionary Convention**
North Carolina, Auxiliary to GBSC

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The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord; but the prayer of the upright is his delight. (Proverbs 15:8)

Confess your faults to one another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. (James 5:16)

Name _____
(Organization or Individual)

Mailing Address _____

Telephone Number _____

E-Mail _____

District _____ Group _____

Department _____
(Senior, Young, Adult, or Youth)

Chairperson - Mr. Robbie Diggs Co-Chairperson - Mrs. Colene Stanley

(Please return to the Office within seven (7) days)
Woman's State Baptist Convention

"From Bondage To Abundance!"

By Archie D. Logan, Jr., Executive Secretary-Treasurer

The General Baptist Foundation offers every Pastor and his or her local church a "Covenant of Care Plan". This plan can be individually customized to meet every budget. It contains insurance for life, short and long term disability, and long-term care. Take a look at the example below and

then call the Foundation to get your plan started today. contact the Foundation toll-free at 1 (866) 687-4631 or 1-866-OURGOD1 and ask for a representative to explain the details.

Call the GBF, Inc., for more information on this and other programs that will help your congregation and pastor.

Benefit	Monthly Contribution	Annual Contribution	Covenant Partners
Short Term Disability (1)	\$24.76	\$297.12	Unum Provident Insurance
Long Term Disability (2)	\$21.18	\$254.16	Unum Provident Insurance
Life Insurance (3)	\$52.39	\$628.68	Unum Provident Insurance
Dependent Life (4)	\$4.00	\$48.00	Unum Provident Insurance
Long Term Care (5)	\$60.17	\$722.04	Unum Provident Insurance
Total	\$197.50*	\$2,370.00	

*\$35 monthly administrative fee included in pricing.

- 7-day elimination period for sickness or accident. Benefit Period 12 weeks up to a maximum of 60%/\$1000 weekly
- 90-day elimination period for sickness or accident. Benefit period to age 65 up to a maximum of 60%/\$3000 monthly.
- \$50,000 guaranteed renewable term-life policy. Coverage is reduced to \$32,500 at age 65 and then, \$25,000 at age 70+.
- \$25,000 guaranteed renewable term life policy for spouse. Coverage is reduced to \$16,250 at age 65 and then, \$12,500 at age 70+. ** Children: Live Birth to 6 months = \$1,000, 6 months to 19 years (26-yrs. If full-time student) = \$2,000
- 3-year benefit period, \$2,000 facility/\$1,000 in home care, indemnity policy, \$72,000 maximum, can get extra coverage if needed.

ATTENTION: Pastors, Trustees, and Financial Committees

Mr. Dexter Perry and his staff have finance, loan, annuity and long-range planning programs that help build the stewardship foundations for your church. Also ask them about the

General Baptist Annuity Gift Program we are doing through North Carolina Mututal Insurance Company. One telephone call will make a blessed difference in your church Ministry. ■

If You Begin At Age	Monthly Pretax Deposits	At Age 65 You will Have Deposited	At Age 65 Your 403(b) Balance Will B
25	\$25.00	\$12,000.00	\$49,787.27
	\$50.00	\$24,000.00	\$99,574.54
	\$100.00	\$48,000.00	\$199,149.07
35	\$25.00	\$9,000.00	\$25,112.88
	\$50.00	\$18,000.00	\$50,225.75
	\$100.00	\$36,000.00	\$100,451.50
	\$200.00	\$72,000.00	\$200,903.01
45	\$50.00	\$12,000.00	\$23,102.04
	\$100.00	\$24,000.00	\$46,204.09
	\$200.00	\$48,000.00	\$92,408.18
	\$300.00	\$72,000.00	\$138,612.27
55	\$50.00	\$6,000.00	\$8,193.97
	\$100.00	\$12,000.00	\$16,387.93
	\$200.00	\$24,000.00	\$32,775.87
	\$300.00	\$36,000.00	\$49,163.80
	\$400.00	\$48,000.00	\$65,551.74

*Assumes an 6% rate of return annually plus reinvestment of all dividends and interest earned.

Taxes will be owed once 403(b) distributions begin, however most individuals assume they will be in a more favorable tax bracket at retirement or able to take advantage of a special tax treatment associated with 403(b) plans called a five-year forward averaging. Professional tax counsel is advisable to determine if special tax treatment for lump sum distributions is available.

The General Baptist Foundation offers each affiliated church, bookkeeping services to small (0 to 150 members) and medium size churches (150 to 300 members). This assistance includes the following:

Description	# Of Checks Written	GBSC Member Cost	Non-GBSC Member Cost	
Bank Statement Reconciliation	30 or less each month	\$10.00 per week	\$15.00 per week	General Ledger
Financial Statement Preparation	Quarterly	No Charge (1)	No Charge (1)	Income and Expense Reports Only*
Accounting Software Installation on local church computer		\$249.00	\$349.00	Includes 1-Hour Of Training (2)

Balance Sheet Preparation Cost Is Determined On A Case-By-Case Basis.

- Included in the cost of the Bank Statement Reconciliation Service.
- No cost for mileage up to a 30-mile radius from Cary, NC. Cost after the 30-mile radius is calculated and \$1.00 per mile round trip.

If your church would like assistance in this matter, please contact the Foundation toll-free at 1(866) 687-4631 or 1-866-OURGOD1 and ask for a representative to explain the details.



"From Bondage To Abundance!"

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Church Name _____

Pastor _____

Church Address _____

Birh Date ____ / ____ / ____ Gender: ☐ M ☐ F Salary \$ _____

Home Phone: (____) _____ Church Phone (____) _____

Email Address _____ Cell Phone _____

If you are intersted in any other type of coverage, please select below:

☐ Health Insurance ☐ Life Insurance ☐ Long Term Care Insurance ☐ Retirement

BAPTIST INFORMER:

EXPLORING THE WONDERS OF GOD'S GRACE

A Need for Willing Workers

In the home church of my youth there was a group of people called the "Willing Workers." I am ashamed to report, but I really do not remember the mission nor purpose of the Willing Workers. Basically, all I remember is the excitement on the people's faces who were known as the "Willing Workers."

As some things change, there are some things that must remain the same. Although, I do not remember fully the mission nor the purpose or function of the "Willing Workers," our convention is in need of more "Willing Workers." The mission of our convention cannot continue to be fulfilled without an adequate amount of "Willing Workers." It would be hard for me to perceive a church with exciting ministries, that reaches out to meet the needs of the community and beyond, without "Willing Workers." The same can be said about the mission and work of a convention. Precious time would be wasted; needs will not be fully met, if the members of the convention were driven by a lackadaisical attitude. For a convention to strive beyond its human conceptional limitations, there must be "Willing Workers" roaming around throughout our state on behalf of our convention.

But I need to be clear on what I mean about the phrase "Willing Workers." I do not want us to confuse a willing worker with a person known as a busybody. A busybody is someone who is just that, busy with no clear goal nor objective in mind.

Nevertheless, I gained my definition of a "Willing Worker" from the 35th chapter of Exodus. The 35th chapter of Exodus is an account of how the resources were obtained to build the tabernacle, how the vessels were constructed to be used in the tabernacle and how the holy garments were made for the priest. God told Moses, in gathering the necessary resource to build and equip the tabernacle, to ask only those who had a willing heart to give an offering (Exodus 35:5). Exodus, 35:21 records the response of Moses' appeal to the people. It reads, **"And they came, everyone whose heart stirred him up, and everyone whom his spirit made willing, and they brought the Lord's offering to the work of the tabernacle of the congregation, and for all its service, and for the holy garments."** The resources to build and equip the tabernacle came from people whose heart had been stirred and who had been made willing by God's spirit. **"Willing Workers" are people who have**

been motivated to work by the Spirit of God. Like the battery that keeps the Energizer Bunny going and going and going, it is the Spirit of God that motivates people to participate willingly in the different ministries of our the convention.

Our state convention is advertising for **"Willing Workers."** We are in need of people who have been energized by God's Spirit to participate willingly in the ministries that God will bring forth within our convention. You will be surprised how mobilized for ministry you will become, when your heart has been energized by God's Spirit. If I am not convincing, ask the Prophet Ezekiel. Ezekiel preached to a valley of dry bones. What preacher in their right mind would go and preach to a valley of dry bones? It just did not seem realistic or profitable, however, Ezekiel did preach to a valley of dry bones. Ezekiel says in Ezekiel 37:1, "the hand of the Lord was upon me, and carried me out in the Spirit of the Lord, and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones." It is incredible where we will work willingly, when the Spirit of God is upon us. The General Baptist State Convention is in need of many "Willing Workers." Can we count on you to be a "Willing Worker?"

- Editor

BAPTIST INFORMER

603 S. Wilmington Street
Raleigh, NC 27601
USPS 042-680

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BAPTIST INFORMER

Volume 126, No. 11

Publication of the General Baptist State Convention of N.C., Inc.
Voice of 500,000 North Carolina Baptists

November 2003

By Dr. Archie D. Logan, Jr.
Executive Secretary-Treasurer

INTRODUCTION

The entire Baptist Headquarters Staff wishes each of you a special spiritual Thanksgiving. This is the season of the

year that we thank Jesus Christ for His many blessings the past twelve months. We continue to live in the power and glory of His sacrifice. Spend time during the Thanksgiving Season in prayer for others; in worship and with



Dr. Archie Logan, Jr.

family and friends.

Let me take time to reflect on some of our Missionary Baptist denominational distinctives. What makes us different as Missionary Baptist? In my travels across the State, I often have questions from Pastors and church officers about Missionary Baptist. Many people want to know what makes the General Baptist State Convention, Inc., and Missionary Baptist Church different from any other Christian denomination or church body. People often say, "...we all worship the same God." Missionary Baptist and members of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc., are Protestants. Protestants are any Christians that are not Roman Catholics, or members of the Orthodox Eastern Church. All Missionary Baptist Associations and Churches are autonomous bodies. They function independently and are self-governing. Yet we have common "objectives", "auxiliaries" and "causes" we support. The members (disciples) of each congregation have the same rights and privileges as any other member in the congregation. The late Dr. Leo Williams, Jr., former Director of Christian Education often did workshops on the thin line between autonomy and "Baptist Beliefs". We are different but unified.

In my many years as a denominational executive I have not seen any two Missionary Baptist Churches that were

exactly the same. Each congregation is unique! GBSC churches and members hold conservative, moderate and liberal beliefs on how they interpret the scriptures: This is why we are Baptist. The General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc., is unique among State African-American Baptist Conventions because we have ONE STATE CONVENTION. There is strength in unity. Our Convention churches affiliate with the State Body through Associations, Unions and independently. Our causes, our ministries, our missions, our objectives are the ties that bind us together. We are inclusive and not exclusive. As Executive Secretary-Treasurer I am challenged each day here at Baptist Headquarters to work with a broad cross section of Churches, Pastors, Moderators and General Baptist.

The GBSC respects the autonomy of the LOCAL CONGREGATION. As your Executive Secretary-Treasurer and speaking for the leadership of the Convention we all believe in the "Liberating Message of the Gospel". The mission of the church is evangelism. The African-American Church must continue to be the church of liberation and not oppression. We stand against the evils of sexism, racism, classism and second-class citizenship. We all are equals in the eyes of Christ. As we continue to hold up the "blood-stain banner" of Christ we must not be detoured, distracted or hoodwinked from the mandate we have for Kingdom Building.

I have been reaching out to several members of our GBSC Family that have been absent from the fellowship. I am concerned when our State Convention is not big enough to include our Sisters and Brothers who have long been a part of our tradition and work. We must not let our churches outgrow the GBSC; the GBSC must grow with our churches. We have a great Convention of fellowship and friendship. We do not always agree but we can disagree in love.

In recent years many Pastors and persons have come to our churches from other States and denominations. In that light, there are continually questions on what

Missionary Baptists believe and what do we stand for as Christians. I have selected several key beliefs that will help to communicate why we have chosen to practice our Christian faith as members of a Missionary Baptist Church.

Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord

First and foremost, the Missionary Baptist Church is a New Testament

must begin to rely on the WORD of God. One of the reasons there is a rise in new denominations and cults is that we do not use the Bible as our authority for church practice. It is important that we begin Bible teaching at an early age. One of the key responsibilities of the Deacon Ministry is to provide Bibles for each member of the congregation and to have Bibles in the church pews. The Word of God should be visible and available.

The Bible is the "God-breathed, Word of God". It has a meaning and message for any time in history. The Bible is never out of date or old-fashioned; it speaks truth to all generations. Scripture in the Old Testament through the New Testament points to Jesus

Christ, our Savior and Lord, the Ultimate Word of God.

The Authority of the Local Church

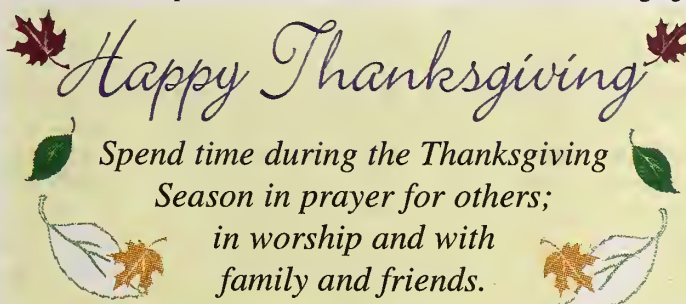
Missionary Baptists believe that every Christian has direct access to God through Jesus Christ. We do not have to go through a priest to confess our sins to God or to pray to God. This also means, in the Missionary Baptist Church, that all Christians are missionaries and have specific ministries. We may have different roles of leadership in the church (such as pastor, deacon, teacher, officer, auxiliary president, youth advisor, etc.), but every Christian is called to be a missionary and we have a ministry. We all have various gifts, talents and abilities.

Believer's Baptism by Immersion Symbolic View of the Ordinances

Missionary Baptists believe that the Bible teaches that when a person makes a decision to become a Christian, baptism by immersion follows that decision as a public testimony of one's faith in Christ. In the early church, scholars of all denominations agree, baptism was by immersion. A theological misunderstanding of original sin greatly influenced the church to start baptizing infants, and the mode of baptizing changed to sprinkling.

The Authority of the Bible

The churches that make up the GBSC are Bible-based churches. Missionary Baptists believe the Bible is the authority for the way we practice our faith in moral responsibility, theological beliefs, and relationships with God and our neighbors. The Bible, not the church – not the Deacons – or the Pastor, has the final say in the way we practice our faith as Christians. One of the problems that we face in the GBSC is that we are leaving our biblical roots. We



Our 136th Year • 1867 - 2003

BELIEVE, Cont'd Page 3

By Linda G. Conner,
Doctor of Ministry Student at United Theological
Seminary, Dayton, Ohio with the focus on Leadership
through Preaching in the African-American Church.
Mentors: Rev. Dr. Ricky Woods and Rev. Dr. Terry
Thomas, Editor of the Baptist Informer

Then Jesus said to the centurion, "Go!
It will be done just as you believed it
would." And his servant was healed at that
very hour. Matthew 8:13

As we honor veterans this month and
our hearts turn to
America's
deployed military
personnel, there is
another we should
remember in war
times--the
omnipresent God.
If we do, He will
reward our faith as
demonstrated in
the story of the
Centurion in



Linda G.
Connor

Matthew 8:5-13. This was a soldier who
believed so strongly in the Lord that he
accepted his blessing immediately upon
Jesus, spoken Word. We can, too.

Further, while our loved ones are in
far away places we can encourage them to
remember the Lord's Word to His people
who had been taken into exile to Babylon
by King Nebuchadnezzar during the days
of Jeremiah. In their dark times on foreign
soil, they were reminded, "For I know the
plans I have for you," declares the Lord,
"plans to prosper you and not to harm you,
plans to give you hope and a future."
(Jeremiah 29:11) He has a purpose in all
that He does, a purpose for humankind's
good. It simply requires our faith, our obe-
dience and our action. A young American
soldier learned that.

On September 29, 2002, U.S. Army
Master Sergeant (MSG) LeRoy Williams
attended Sunday Service, prayed a special
altar prayer, drove to the airport, kissed his
wife and 9-month old son goodbye and
began his journey to Afghanistan. How
could the soldier know that God would use
that exact moment to start His own move-
ment - one that would unite Baptists and
Methodists young and old, Black and
White, able-bodied and the physically
challenged in a common cause? It all
began with a simple call to duty letter.

This was MSG William's sixth
deployment, the second in his two-year
marriage to Anne. She moved across
country with plans to marry him, but was
forced to move the wedding date up
because he was deployed to Kosovo in
May 2000. The congregation surrounded
her with gentle concern for a new member
and only knew of her absent husband. It
was when he returned just before the
beginning of 2001 that he became a real
person to the congregation. The members
watched as the couple flourished and had a
son, Bryson.

However, before Bryson turned 10-

God's Honors the Faith of the Centurion, Today

months old, Master Sergeant Williams was
deployed again in service to his country,
this time to Afghanistan. This news hit at
the very core of the church. Now, Anne
was more than a new member. She was
family and her husband, who had become
a brother of the church, was gone. Now,
the questions about him were more than
cursory and polite. There was genuine con-
cern for his welfare.

Anne befriended several single people
in the New Members class when she joined
the church during LeRoy's first deploy-
ment, accompanying them to functions.
She was folded into the Singles Ministry as
their married chaperone. During this sec-
ond term of deployment, the Singles
Ministry wanted to do more to help Anne
and little Bryson. So, the ministry adopted
her husband's troop, the U.S. Army 416th
Engineer Command Facility, Team 20, and
their families.

The first commitment was to pray
daily at noon and to believe for the protec-
tion, peace, wisdom and safe return of this
Troop. The project was based upon the
Biblical record found in Matthew 8:5-13.
This is the story of the centurion who
asked Jesus to heal his servant. Jesus
offered to accompany the soldier, but the
centurion declared there was no need. As a
man of authority with soldiers under his
rule, he understood that all Jesus needed to
do was speak the command and it would
be done. Then Jesus said to the centurion,
"Go! It will be done just as you believed it
would." And his servant was healed at that
very hour.

The Singles Ministry studied the text
and believed in faith from the first meeting
that Master Sergeant (MSG) Williams and
everyone in his troop would return home
whole and safe by the Grace of the
Almighty God. To personify this, the proj-
ect was titled Team Centurion. The job of
the ministry was faith and knowing that
faith without deeds is dead, the small
group went to work.

They solicited the support of the
church to provide monthly care packages
to the troop in Afghanistan. The first ship-
ment of food included Bibles small enough
to fit into the cargo pockets of the soldiers,
uniforms so they could carry the Holy
Books with them into battle. (We've
learned that a year later, some of the men
still are reading these Bibles.) In addition,
women of the church baked homemade
cookies for the troop; on a monthly alter-
nating basis, each ministry sent a special
gift to the soldiers and the Sunday School
children drew pictures for the soldiers. In
addition, the Singles Ministry wrote
bimonthly to the families, sending holiday
and birthday gifts, and to the soldiers, par-
ents every third month. When America
went to war in Iraq and more people in the
church were affected by war, the project
expanded to include deployed relatives and

friends of all members.

"Our Lord Jesus Christ the Father of
compassion and the God of all comfort,
who comforts us in all our troubles, so that
we can comfort those in any trouble with
the comfort we ourselves have received
from God." 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

As the first quarter of the project
ended, leadership wrote to ask the troop
how Grant could support them more effec-
tively, what other items they would like to
receive. While the expected answer from
most of us would have been items of com-
fort, not one soldier asked anything for
himself.

MSG Williams, email arrived first.
Assuring his church that everything they
sent was wonderful and expressing genuine
gratitude from the FET 20 troop, he asked
if it were possible for the members to send
some of their gently used shoes, especially
men shoes, to the people of Afghanistan.

His troop was helping to rebuild the
war-torn country, using the contracted
services of the Afghans. Yet, these men
were coming to construction work without
proper shoes to protect their feet from
falling bricks, chain saws and nails.

The second letter was from Major
Erwin Blancaflor also expressing gratitude
and asking if it would be too much trouble
for the church to send carpentry tools and
"How To" books with pictures to show the
Afghans what it was they were being
instructed to build. His letter explained
that the Afghans did not have access to
such things as measuring tapes and ham-
mers and the U.S. Army could not spend
tax dollars to provide these items to the
civilians.

In three weeks, the church gathered
more than 140 pairs of shoes for men,
women and children, as well as two boxes
of clothes. They bought measuring tapes,
carpenter aprons, safety masks, work
gloves, constructions pencils and sharpen-
ers and "How To" books. The media cov-
ered the story and God's mission spread.

Area churches called asking what they
could do to help. A church from across
town joined the collection process and

within weeks the two congregations, Black
and White, shipped 18 more boxes of
clothes and shoes. The Singles Ministry
leader's sister, Ilean Galloway, and a
friend, Kelly Garry, in Albuquerque, New
Mexico, also joined the effort collecting
shoes and purchasing tools such as ham-
mers and books. Using personal funds,
Galloway paid to ship the items to
Afghanistan.

MSG Williams' troop distributed the
items through agencies and orphanages in
Afghanistan, including airlifting items to a
remote orphanage that was often over-
looked because of the hardship in reaching
its location. Today, Team Centurion is
made up of partnerships that include a
Missionary Baptist Church, an African
Methodist Church, two United Methodist
Churches, a Lutheran University, several
Girl Scout Troops, an Elementary School's
Special Education Class, an Afghan Hound
Club and continued support of those part-
ners previously mentioned, including MSG
Williams' troop.

A month-long collection drive was
held area wide in two states during
October. The mass shipment will be made
in November as a tribute to Veterans Day
and in honor of God's faithfulness to Team
Centurion. The U.S. Army Replacement
Unit at Bagram Base in Afghanistan will
distribute the items and the people will be
helped.

The central theme in all this is God's
faithfulness. In the letter from the prophet
Jeremiah to the exiled people of Jerusalem
referenced earlier in this article, the Lord
further instructed, "Also, seek the peace
and prosperity of the city to which I have
carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for
it, because if it prospers, you too will pros-
per." (Jeremiah 29:7)

God is faithful to fulfill His Word. It
simply requires our faith, our obedience
and our action. The young American sol-
dier learned that. With faith, obedience
and action, Master Sergeant LeRoy

CENTURION, Cont'd Next Page

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THEME: "By the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor
of righteousness..." (II Corinthians 6:7)

ERIC

By Dr. Charles Bullock
President GBSC



Dr. Charles
Bullock

As we bring closure to one fiscal year and begin another, one year of this administration is behind us and the future is yet before. We cannot change the past, though some goals were not accomplished; but the page is turned and God has granted us the privilege to be actively involved

in the work of this convention as we continue to "Serve The Present Age". We face the present and future challenges with confidence that, with God's help, we can continue to accomplish great things for the Kingdom.

As we consider the ministry of our convention, I invite each of us to use the gifts and resources that God has given us to accomplish every good work. Last year I proposed that we use our gifts "for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ" (Ephesians 4:12). Also, we proposed that our ministry would be enhanced under four headings using the acronym **ERIC** which includes **Education, Research and Resources, Integrity and Accountability, and Commitment**. I am grateful to Dr. J. T. Roberson, Dean of Shaw Divinity School, and Dr. William Thurston, Associate Professor of Religion and Philosophy,

Shaw University, for developing and leading the **Education** component for our mid-year and annual sessions. We seek to provide relevant and meaningful classes.

We commend Mrs. Julius McDonald and Dr. Priscilla Brodie, President and Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Woman Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention, for their thrust in the educational process. We are grateful also to our auxiliary leaders: president Diane Newell, Congress of Christian Education; President John Gladden, Laymen's League; President Forrest Eaves, Ushers; President Donaldson Jones, Minister's Council; and Dr. Anita Holmes, Director of Health and Human Services, for their leadership in the educational process.

We shall continue to develop the **Research and Resources** component of **ERIC**, which is designed for exposure to studies, materials and resources that provide information helpful in finding relevant solutions to contemporary challenges.

We must continue our work with the third component, **Integrity and Accountability**. We commit to stewardship accountability and financial stability for the spiritual and financial well being of this convention. The Presidential Committee that was appointed and chaired by Past President W. B. Lewis continues its work to bring forth a recom-

mendation for your consideration as to the best procedure to follow with reference to the percentages of the Unified Program. In the meantime, we solicit your generous financial stewardship to accomplish the convention's many meaningful ministries.

The fourth component, **Commitment**, is so necessary and needed to carry out the ministry of the convention. Our executive committee, general board members, committee chairs and members are to be commended for their labor of love and commitment in exemplifying their determination in helping to move this convention forward. We are grateful for all the support we receive from lay members, pastors, churches, associations and others as we together commit to "Serve The Present Age" effectively.

We are committed to ensuring accountability of convention's resources, evaluating and prioritizing major convention goals and projects, fostering a statewide evangelism ministry beyond programs and walls, reaching out to involve and retain current and potential pastors and churches, updating and adopting an operational Policy Manual and promoting increased technology.

May God continue to bless us and bless our convention as we work together for the upbuilding of His kingdom.

CENTURION, Cont'd From Page 2

Williams and all the men of the 416th ENCOM FET 20 returned home safe and whole on July 29, 2003.

This was not the first time, nor will it be the last time, that God answers a church's prayer for its centurions. The Albuquerque Journal ("Church Celebrates Heroes," April 12, 2003) recently interviewed Rev. Tim Smith, pastor of the First Assembly of God in Seadrift, Texas, a small coastal town. He said that during World War II in 1941, that church's pastor asked members to bring photographs of their deployed family members. With these pictures, the members made a collage and prayed for the safety of those 52 husbands and brothers stationed overseas. God heard, and despite the thousands who died in War II, every man in that church's

collage came home without so much as an injury. Some still live in Seadrift and tell the story of God's miracle.

It can happen at your church. During these difficult times, people need hope and military families need support. The church can lead the Way to the one, true Answer. With the faith of the centurion, we can lead others into an experience with God at their time of a crisis of belief. How will we, the church, answer our call to duty? Jesus said, "Go! It will be done just as you believed it would." It's up to us.

For information on Team Centurion or on starting such a project at your church, contact Linda G. Connor at aslan-comm@aol.com or 512-423-9975.

BELIEVE, Cont'd From Page 1

We do not believe that baptism is required for salvation, but we believe that it is a symbolic testimony of our faith in Jesus Christ. This symbolically describes what occurs in salvation. We are completely cleansed of all sin, and we died to sin and selfishness (burial is symbolized as one goes under the water), and we rise to a new life identifying with the resurrected Lord Jesus (symbolized as one comes up out of the water). Baptism by immersion dramatizes the new life of the Gospel.

As Missionary Baptists, we have two ordinances (not sacraments). A sacrament has SAVING power, we believe ONLY Jesus Christ SAVES.

The Lord's Supper

We believe that the practice of observing the Lord's Supper reminds us of the great price Jesus paid for the forgiveness of our sins by sacrificing His life for us on the Cross. This is a very important tie in the life of the church. It is a period in the Missionary Baptist church for renewal, reflection and meditation.

Emphasis on Missions and Evangelism

General Baptists are very mission-minded. We give more to missions, our objectives and special causes than any other group of African-American Baptists in the country. Thank you very much! We emphasize our objectives monthly: State Missions, Shaw University, Shaw

University Divinity School, Central Children's Home and Lott Carey. Each Pastor and congregation puts emphasis on missions. We voluntarily give stewardship funds (hopefully a certain percentage of our church budget) to the GBSC. The Convention then acts as a clearinghouse to distribute your stewardship gifts. Because we combine our stewardship contributions we support more people and do more mission ministry through our unified effort.

The mission of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc., states that we are called to form a closer relationship; to effect mutual helpfulness; to foster and support Missions, Christian Education; to maintain Christian fellowship; to uphold the doctrines commonly held by Missionary Baptist Churches; to support more effectively the gospel ministry and to enhance our Christian Ordinance. This convention shall undertake to promote and support Home and Foreign Missions, Christian and Higher Christian Education, ministerial relief, church building and development, social Christian services, publication and distribution of Christian literature; support children in the state of North Carolina who are in need of care, the study and distribution of the Bible, to cooperate with other Missionary Baptist organizations to carry out the spirit of this Convention and engage in whatever other Christian endeavors as were deemed necessary to advance the Kingdom of God.

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CITY OF ASHEVILLE PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Dr. John H. Grant became Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church's fifth pastor in May of 1989; and



Dr. John H. Grant

WHEREAS, under Dr. Grant leadership, Mount Zion is currently implementing Operation-Multiplication - a discipleship training ministry teaching evangelism as a daily lifestyle, not merely as an occasional event; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Grant has also led Mount Zion in a major capital improvement and economic development plan to expand the church's ministries to more effectively reach people for Christ to the glory of God; and

WHEREAS, Mount Zion has invested more than one million dollars (over and above tithes and offerings) in social and economic development projects through his plan; and

WHEREAS, since 1999, Dr. Grant has served as Founding President and CEO of the Mount Zion Community Development, Inc (MZCD), whose mission is focused on empowerment of the individual and community; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Grant serves and has served on the board of directors of many civic and community based organizations; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Grant is the recipient of many honors and awards including, but not limited to, as being voted one of Buncombe County's "100 Most Influential People" by an Asheville Citizen-Times survey, voted Minority Enterprise Week "Minister of the Year" and honored by the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance and the Asheville Buncombe Community Christian Ministry with the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. "2001 Church of the Year" award; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Grant is devoted to his wife Belinda and his two children Kontia and John Jr.;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Charles R. Worley, Mayor of the city of Asheville, North Carolina, do hereby proclaim October 5, 2003, as

DR. JOHN H. GRANT DAY

In the City of Asheville,

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Asheville, North, to be affixed, this 23rd day of September, 2003.



Charles R. Worley
Charles R. Worley
Mayor

Associational Headquarter Buildings

By Dr. Howard W. Parker, Jr.
First Vice President

The dream of the Bear Creek Missionary Baptist Association having a

headquarters building is at least 60 years old. As in most cases, some saw the need for a building and some did not. However, under the leadership of Dr. W. C. Horton, who served as Moderator in 1989, 19 acres of land was purchased on South



Dr. Howard Parker, Jr.

Slocumb Street and was paid off in two years. Dr. Horton informed the Association, once they raised \$100,000.00, they would proceed to build phase one of their plan, which was the Sanctuary building. Dr. W. C. Cox, General Contractor and a Pastor in Bear Creek, agreed to save the association some money by building the facility. Dr. Cox also served Bear Creek, at that time, as First Vice Moderator. Thus, the \$637,000.00 projected building, was built for \$419,000.00.

Before construction was completed on phase one, while Dr. Horton served as Pastor of the Best Grove Missionary Baptist Church in Goldsboro and the Mesick Missionary Baptist Church in Mesick and also as Mayor of Morehead

By Rev. Nilous M. Avery, II - M. Div.
2nd Vice-President

To my brothers and sisters in the General Baptist "tie" that binds our hearts



Rev. Nilous Avery, II

in Christian love: "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with

the comfort we ourselves have received from God" (2 Corinthians 1:3-4, NIV).

What a wonderful thought to know with assurance that God is merciful. God blesses us so that through us, others will be blessed. The writer in Ecclesiastes noted that some things do change. There is a season for "every activity under heaven" (Ecclesiastes 3:1b). Change occurs: from being born to dying....from planting to uprooting....from killing to healing....from tearing down to building up....from crying to laughing....from loving to hating....and so on. Some things do change.

For many who have seen a number of "getting ups and lying downs", dramatic changes have taken place. Many conveniences we take for granted today were non-existent at the beginning of the 20th century (the year 1900). Change is constant. Some things do change! A time traveler from the early 1900's would not recognize the world as it exists today.

And yet, some things do not change. When a woman came to Jesus with an alabaster jar of expensive perfume and poured it on His head (Matthew 26), Jesus' disciples became angry and complained. They concluded that the perfume could have been sold and the money given

to cost \$637,000.00 and was erected and furnished for \$419,000.00. This building, which joins the Sanctuary building, contains classrooms and offices for the association.

After serving the Bear Creek Association for five years as First Vice Moderator and seven years as Moderator, Dr. W. C. Cox will not seek another term in office as Moderator when the Association meets in its Annual Session - October 5th thru 12th, 2003.

to the poor. Jesus replied that the poor would always be around.

Some things do not change! People still need food because they get hungry. People still need comforting because they experience grief. People still need guidance because they get confused. People still need compassion and companionship because they get lonely. People still need forgiveness and a Savior because they (or should I say we all) sin. People still need hope because at some point, we all die.

Some things do not change! God's grace, mercy, and love do not change. In Christ, God's image is not stained. In Christ, God's power is not weak. God is immutable. In darkness, God is light....in chaos, God is truth....in weakness, God is strength....in death, God is eternal life! Some things do change. God does not! God's purpose, power, presence, protection, and provision do not change. As disciples of Christ striving daily to give thanks and live thankfully, our methods may change, but the mission is still the same: TO SERVE THE PRESENT AGE!

Are we helpers or hindrances to the cause of Jesus Christ? The Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Missionary Convention and its recipients of our blessings are waiting to hear from us. Some things do not change: foreign missions need our support and prayers. Some things do change: the cost of living and the cost of maintaining adequate living conditions increase each day. Some things do not change: the people of God in the General Baptist family will rise up to meet every challenge, every lion's den, every Red Sea, every flaming furnace, every wall, every stronghold that attempts to thwart the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ.

If you need further information, please contact me: (church) 704-637-0954; (fax) 704-637-1137; E-mail - averyrevkin@aol.com.

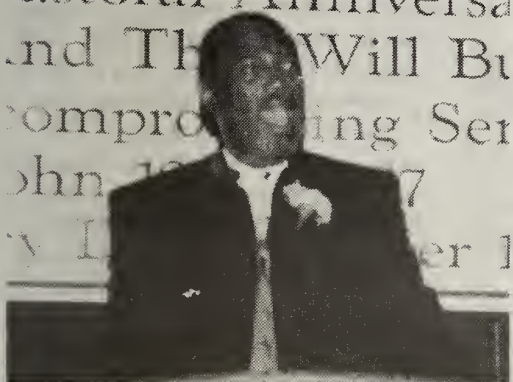
"May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all" (2 Corinthians 13:14, NIV). Amen.

GBSC congratulates Moderator Cox and the members of the Bear Creek Missionary Baptist Association.

Dr. John D. Fuller Sr., GBSC Past-President

by Reverend Dennis Leach Sr., B.S.M. Div.,

On September 20th, 2003 at the Crown Coliseum in Fayetteville, North Carolina over thirteen hundred well-wishers gathered to celebrate, and commend a tremendous pastoral milestone. The banquet committee members showed how much they love, care, and appreciate their pastor by putting on a gracious and grand program from start to finish. The festivities got under way at 6:00 p.m. with a prelude entitled Youth on Strings, which featured Olivia & Lillie Campbell, and Adrian McLaurin. Serving, as the master and mistress of ceremonies were Mr. Roger Gore & Mrs. Elizabeth Ray. The invocation was rendered by Reverend Robert G. Hedgepeth, the Pastor of Pine Chapel Baptist Church, Hollister, NC, followed by the welcome and occasion given by Mrs. Sandra Williams-Jones. Miss Kendra LaRoyal Sharp rendered a rousing rendition of "Amazing Grace" on



Dr. John D. Fuller Sr.

saxophone.

The next segment of the evening's festivities was marked by tributes entitled: "To Our Pastor" shared by some of those touched by Dr. Fuller's pastorate. Miss Olivia Campbell gave thoughtful and insightful remarks in tribute. Mrs. Keeley McCray-McDonald talked about Pastor Fuller's faithfulness and support during a crucial juncture in her life that made a lasting impression. Dr. Carol Ray briefly shared with the audience Pastor Fuller's ministry mannerism while supporting her through the loss of her mother, and her doctoral dissertation. Pastor REginald Wells, of New Christian Chapel Baptist Church, Rosehill, NC spoke of Dr. Fuller's willingness to serve as his mentor, and provide guidance to him as a young preacher. He talked about Dr. Fuller's generosity towards others, to include giving him a make shift position on his staff. Reverend Wells closed his tribute in a sermon summation. Ms Michelle Young a member of Mr. Zion Baptist Church of Riegelwood, NC closed out the tributes with a solo "I won't complain."

Dr. Matthew Rouse, the Pastor of Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church, Raeford, NC and the Moderator of Moderator's for the GBSC rendered the grace. During dinner a slide show was given chronicling Pastor Fuller's thirty years of distinguished and dedicated service to the Lord at the helm of Lewis Chapel Baptist Church. Citations were awarded to Pastor Fuller in the following order: representing the church was Deacon and Deaconess Daniel & Norma Norman. Dr. Archie D. Logan Jr., Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the General Baptist State Convention issued a citation of behalf of the Convention; he also gave Pastor Fuller a triune offering, three checks totaling three hundred dollars. Members of the GBSC staff, Ms. Carol Smith, Mrs. Portia Brandon, and Reverend Dennis Brown, accompanied Dr. Logan.

The final citation was given by Dr. Bobby Joe Saucer, Special Assistant to Executive Director Ministers &

Missionaries Benefit Board of the American Baptist Churches of the South. During his presentation he noted that Pastor Fuller was a student at the Interdenominational Theological Center, Morehouse School of Religion while he served as the Academic Dean. He informed the audience that Dr. Fuller was the youngest fully appointed member of the Board of Directors for the Morehouse School of Religion. Pastor Fuller accomplished this noteworthy achievement while still enrolled as a student. Dr. Saucer said that Pastor Fuller's appointment was met with quite a bit of skepticism, and rancor from the other senior board members, who questioned his choice. He went on to say that the late Dr. Benjamin Elijah Mays settled the matter by stating that: "We should commission the Dean to go out and find at least twenty-one more board members of Reverend Fuller's caliber, who will give as much support to this institution as he does."

Ms. Diane M. Newell, President, General Baptist State Convention Congress of Christian Education, introduced the guest speaker. Mrs. Valeria S. Collins sang "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" prior to the keynote speaker. The speaker for the evening was Dr. Thurman B. Everett, Pastor of the Bryant Swamp Baptist Church, Baldenboro, NC and the Housing Committee Chairman of the General Baptist State convention of North Carolina Inc.

Dr. Everett said that Pastor Fuller befriended him after their first meeting, and asked him if he would consider the position of Chairman for Housing if he were elected President of the General Baptist State Convention. He went on to

say he accepted Dr. Fuller's confidential appointment. Dr. Everett said that from the beginning Dr. Fuller pledged his support and stood squarely behind him, and the housing initiative. He was that it was President Fuller's leadership that helped to define the housing committee agenda, focus, and scope as the leading faith based program in the nation.

He credited the success of the housing ministry especially in the wake of hurricane Floyd directly to Dr. Fuller's visionary leadership. After sharing these ministry particulars with the audience, God clapped through the thundering prophetic preaching voice of his manservant. Dr. Everett raised the bar of preaching excellence with his homiletically correct sermon recitation. In other words he preached, and we had church!

Mrs. Lodies Gloston, Mr. Lathern Marshall, and Mr. James Smith General Chairpersons then gave remarks. These were followed by thanks from the honoree of the evening, pastor John Dr. Fuller Sr., who was in patented preaching form. After recognizing all of his cleric colleagues, he thanked those responsible for the evening's festivities along with the Lewis Chapel church family. He being true to the Georgia preacher that he is, and his roots, called it up, took us by Calvary, hollered! Then took his seat.

Marshall B. Pitts, Mayor of Fayetteville issued a proclamation making October 19, 2003 John Dr. Fuller Sr., Day.

During the course of any successful pastorate, there will always be meaningful ministry moments that help to define, and distinguish those who wear the mantle of a shepherd. Those attending the banquet in honor of Dr. John D. Fuller Sr., would hear, and learn of some of those intimate ministry moments that have highlighted his career. If you could take a page from Pastor Fuller's ministry manual, you would no doubt read of his many stellar pastoral accomplishments. You will notice

his ability to build ministry coalitions among those he led, which contributed to the church's growth, from less than one hundred members to over four thousand. You will see the ministry acquisitions of

property in excess of ten million (10) dollars. And, you will observe a plethora of both out-reach and in-reach ministries that keep this twenty-first century church in perpetual

ministry motion.

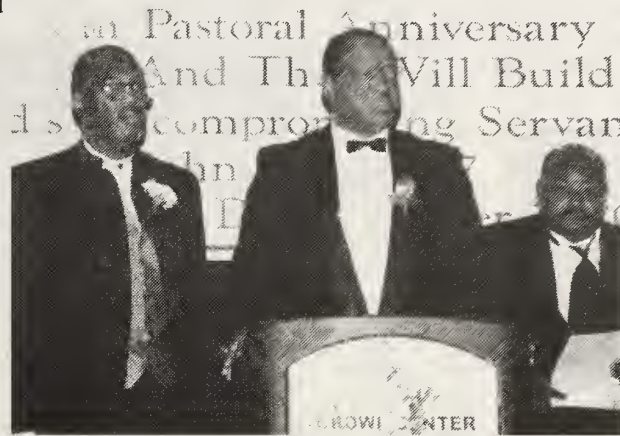
But, somewhere on the pages of this master pastors manual, seemingly obscure to the casual eye you will find the root of his ministry secret. Those in attendance got a glimpse of it that evening. In terms of ministry success he has climbed high, but has not lost the common touch. His secret is his ability to not only walk with his members on the mountaintop of life, but to also accompany them in the valleys. Not only has he stood beside them in the sunny seasons, he has also stood with them during the dark wintry moments of life. For over thirty years he has served as a faithful shepherd accompanying those traversing the unpredictable journeys of this life.

Through sunshine and rain, through sickness and pain, the shepherd was on watch, and he believed. He believed God, and he believed in the people, they were able to sense this, and rallied behind his call to ministry excellence.

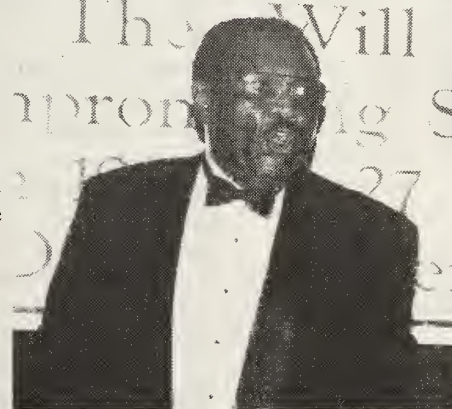
On September 20, 2003, 6:00 p.m.

at the Crown Coliseum in Fayetteville, North Carolina many touched by God's servant returned like the one lepers; out o ten (Luke 17:15) to glorify God, and to say thank you to a faithful shepherd. By God's grace they will gather again at other times to say thank you, but when its all said and done the final thanks is most important, and belongs to God:

"Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things."



L-R; Dr. John D. Fuller Sr., Dr. Archie D. Logan Jr., Deacon Roger Gore.



Dr. Thurman D. Everett

Thanksgiving: "Think of His Goodness To You"

By Executive Secretary-Treasurer Brodie

Psalm 107

1. Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.

2. Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, Whom He has redeemed from the hand of the enemy.



Dr. Priscilla Brodie

3. And gathered out of the lands, From the east and from the west, From the north and from the south.

4. They wandered in the wilderness in a desolate way. They found no city to dwell in.

5. Hungry and thirsty, Their soul fainted in them.

6. Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble, And He delivered them out of their distresses.

7. And He led them forth by the right way, That they might go to a city for habitation.

8. Oh, that men would give thanks to the Lord for His goodness, And for His

wonderful works to the children of men!

9. For He satisfies the longing soul, And fills the hungry soul with goodness.

10. Those who sat in darkness and in the shadow of death, Bound in affliction and irons.

11. Because

they rebelled against the words of God, And despised the counsel of the Most High,

12. Therefore He brought down their heart with labor; They fell down, and there was none to help.

13. Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble, And He saved them out of

their distresses.

14. He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death. And broke their chains in pieces.

15. Oh, that men would give thanks to the Lord for His goodness, And for His wonderful works to the children of men!

16. For He has broken the gates of bronze, And cut the bars of iron in two.

17. Fools, because of their transgression, And because of their iniquities, were afflicted.

18. Their soul abhorred all manner of food. And they drew near to the gates of death.

19. Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble, And He saved them out of their distresses.

20. He sent His word and healed them, And delivered them from their destructions.

21. Oh, that men would give thanks to the Lord for His goodness, And for His wonderful works to the children of men!

22. Let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, And declare His works with rejoicing.

23. Those who go down to the sea in ships, Who do business on great waters,

24. They see the works of the Lord, And His wonders in the deep.

25. For He commands and raises the stormy wind, Which lifts up the waves of the sea.

26. They mount up to the heavens. They go down again to the depths; Their soul melts because of trouble.

27. They reel to and fro, and stagger like a drunken man, And are at their wits' end.

28. Then they cry out to the Lord in their trouble, And He brings them out of their distresses.

29. He calms the storm, So that its waves are still.

30. Then they are glad because they are quiet; So He guides them to their desired haven.

31. Oh, that men would give thanks to the Lord for His goodness, And for His wonderful works to the children of men!

32. Let them exalt Him also in the congregation of the people, And praise Him in the assembly of the elders.

33. He turns rivers into a wilderness, And the watersprings into dry ground;

34. A fruitful land into barrenness, For the wickedness of those who dwell in it.

35. He turns a wilderness into pools of water, And dry land into watersprings.

36. There He makes the hungry dwell, That they may establish a city for habitation,

37. And sow fields and plant vineyards, That they may yield a fruitful harvest.

38. He also blesses them, and they multiply greatly; And He does not let their cattle decrease.

39. When they are diminished and brought low Through oppression, affliction and sorrow,

40. He pours contempt on princes, And causes them to wander in the wilderness where there is no way;

41. Yet He sets the poor on high, far from affliction, And makes their families like a flock.

42. The righteous see it and rejoice, And all iniquity stops its mouth.

43. Whoever is wise will observe these things, And they will understand the lovingkindness of the Lord. (NKJV)

third month, November, of our fiscal year is now with us. With it come many challenges. Perhaps one of the most prevalent challenges is that of observing the holiday, Thanksgiving, a day set aside to emphasize the thankfulness for what God has done, is doing, and will do. On this day some of us will gather together to worship, to eat at the table with our families, and/or to watch games. However, as Christians (God's Children/Jesus' disciples) wherever we are, let us not forget to think of His goodness to us and others. For in Psalm 107 we are admonished: "O give thanks to the Lord for He is good, For His mercy endures forever. Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom He has redeemed from the hand of the enemy." Further in this Psalm do we find, several times, the refrain: "Oh, that men would give thanks to the Lord for His goodness, And for His wonderful works to the children of men." The final verse says: "Whoever is wise will observe these things, and they will understand the loving

kindness of the Lord" - NKJV. Cannot all of us offer thanksgiving to God through Jesus Christ, as we think of His goodness to others and to us?

Think Of His Goodness To You

When waves of affliction sweep o-ver the soul,

And sun-light is hidden from view, If ev-er you're tempted to fret or com-plain, Just think of His good-ness to you.

The world may forsake you, and those whom you trust

May prove to be false and un-true; There's One you can trust e-ven un-to the end;

Just think of His good-ness to you.

Mis-for-tune's dark cloud may hang o-ver the way,

De-site your best ef-forts to do; the Sav-ior is guard-ing your treas-ures up there;

Just think of His good-ness to you.

When dear ones are tak-en a-way from you here,

You loved with af-fec-tion so true, Look un-to the

Savior for strength to en-dure, And think of His good-ness to you.

Chorus:

Just think of His good-ness to you; Yes, think of His good-ness to you

Tho' storms o'er thee sweep,

He is a-ble to keep;

O think of His good-ness to you.

-R.C. Ward

May God grant each of you a Happy Thanksgiving

REMINDERS

1. The Youth Evangelism Conference will be held at the Raleigh Civic Center. November 1, 2003. Franklin County Union, Host.

THANKS, Cont'd Page 7



Dr. Julius McDonald

wonderful works to the children of men!

9. For He satisfies the longing soul, And fills the hungry soul with goodness.

10. Those who sat in darkness and in the shadow of death, Bound in affliction and irons.

11. Because

they rebelled against the words of God, And despised the counsel of the Most High,

12. Therefore He brought down their heart with labor; They fell down, and there was none to help.

13. Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble, And He saved them out of



The Prayer Line

Rev. David K. Miles M.Div.
919-264-9249 9pm - 7am

POSITION OPEN:

BOOKKEEPER/ACCOUNTANT

The Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention, Auxiliary to GBSC, is accepting applications for a Bookkeeper/Accountant. Applicants should meet the following qualifications:

- Have an Associate or Bachelors degree in bookkeeping and/or accounting
- Have efficient knowledge of computer operations in terms of spreadsheets and general ledgers and any other bookkeeping/Accounting procedures
- Have adequate typing skills
- Have ability to relate to people
- Have team spirit

The salary is negotiable; good benefits.

For further information and application, please write to:

The Executive Secretary-Treasurer

Woman's Baptist Home & Foreign Missionary Convention of North Carolina

Auxiliary to GBSC • P. O. Box 1818 • Raleigh, NC 27602

Telephone (919) 833-4823 * Fax (919) 833-7599

Email: WBHFM@WBH-FMC.Org

Submitted by Sis. Mary B. Godfrey

Annual Missionary Day

The Missionaries of District Ten group Two held it's Annual Missionary Day, Saturday, September 13, 2003 at the Mt. Carmel Missionary Baptist Church, located in the Newland Section, of Elizabeth City, NC, where the Rev. William J. Smith, Jr. is the pastor.

The service, which began at 10:15 a.m., was opened with a very spiritual Praise and Worship period with scripture and prayer led by Sis. Carlos Mullen and Deacon Robert Smith, respectively. Sis. Mary B. Godfrey, Chairman of District Ten group Two, presided. The program included the reading of the Missionary Creed led by Sis. Lillie C. Perry followed by the singing of the Missionary Hymn, "A Charge To Keep I Have." The group was welcomed by Sis. Lillie Riddick of the host Missionary Circle. Sis. Mildred Hunt responded.

Sis. Mary E. Sharpe, Institute Instructor, discussed the *Convention's Theme: Serving The Present Age: Transforming The Family Through Christian Values and Ethics*. Matthew 22:27-450, John 14:15, Ephesians 4:11-12. Sis. Sharpe asked the question, Are we doing what the Lord wants us to do? Are we living according to the standards established by our Lord and Master? Do we recognize and know what the mission task involves? Missionaries, when does our Ministry begin? In this present age; and we are commissioned to transform those Ethics. Surely, we can see the need. Do we really care what happens to other people? Many are spiritually dead and have no knowledge of our

Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and they have no christian values to enhance. Jesus has already set the example and has given us a plan to follow and how to

follower. If missionaries are to be the salt of the earth, much is required of them. Missionaries should be christian citizens, letting your light shine wherev-



serve this present age. Matthew 22:37-39 - Jesus said, "Thou shalt love the Lord, thy God, with all thy heart, and with all thy mind." This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it, "Thou shall love they neighbor as thyself." With these two commandments, we as Missionaries can serve this present age.

Sis. Alline Gallop presented the guest speaker, the Reverend William J. Smith, Jr. Reverend Smith's message was "Christian citizenship: The salt that saves." Matthew 5:13-16. Pastor Smith challenged the missionaries, saying that Missionaries are the salt of the earth. Just as salt is very valuable, so are missionaries. They are the flavor, the seasoning that's needed in the world today - the home, the church, the schools, the communities. Missionaries are called to serve, to lead as well as being a good

er you go. Missionaries are special to God because they are sent by God, and being sent by God means that missionaries should "Let your light so shine

before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father, who is in heaven."

The group, under the direction of Sis. Olga Etheridge, musician, assisted by Sis. Carlos Mullen, singing hymns and spirituals, including "This Little Light of Mine, I'm going to Let It Shine" throughout the service.

The new officers Elect for 2004-2006 term were presented by Sis. Nora Etheridge, chairman of the Nominating Committee. These officers will be installed at the December 2003 meeting.

Sis. Godfrey commended the group for their attendance and how good they looked in their missionary attire including the beautiful green and white cor-sages.

The benediction was given by Pastor Smith. A luncheon followed the closing of the session.

THANKS, Cont'd From Page 6

2. **Institutes and Books.** Now is the time to begin contacting our office to secure study books for this fiscal year and certified instructors for institutes. This year's study for Seniors adn Young Adults is the *Story of The Christian Church*. There are also books for different age levels for the Youth, as well.

3. **The Proposed Missions' Budget** - 2003-2004 is \$811,055.00 which will be distributed among the objective. Checks and money orders should be made payable to the Woman's Baptist State Convention or Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention of North Carolina.

APOLOGY

Please accept our apology for *The Missionary Helper* being late and forgive us in Christian love. Because of circumstances we did not receive the manuscript at the regular time.

APPRECIATION

We, the family of the late Reverend O.H. Brodie, are grateful to God to be surrounded by loving, kind, compassionate, and considerate people like you. We appreciate all of your prayers and acts of kindness shared with us during our bereavement. May God bless each of you.

POSITION OPEN:

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

The Woman's Baptist Home & Foreign Missionary Convention, Auxiliary to GBSC, is accepting applications for an Administrative Assistant. Applicants should meet the following requirements:

- Have an Associate or Bachelors degree, preferably in Business Management (some courses in Christian Education) with some years of experience
- Have communicative and organizational skills
- Be able to maintain lists, schedule(s)
- Be able to work with minimal supervision
- Have proficiency in business English
- Have knowledge of preparing and reporting state and federal taxes preparation
- Have proficient computer skills
- Have a pleasant personality and telephone skills
- Have team spirit

Salary is negotiable, good benefits.

For further information and application, please write to: Executive Secretary-Treasurer
Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention of North Carolina,
Auxiliary to GBSC, • P. O. Box 1818 • Raleigh, NC 27602
Telephone (919) 833-4323 * Fax (919) 833-7599
Email: WBHFMC@WBH-FMC.Org

POSITION OPEN: SECRETARY

The Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention, Auxiliary to GBSC, is accepting applications for a Secretary. Applicants should meet the following qualifications:

- Have completed high school and have had several business courses beyond high school
- Have knowledge of business English
- Have efficient knowledge of computer operations, especially word processing and spreadsheets
- Have good typing speed and accuracy
- Have the ability to relate to people
- Have team spirit

The salary is negotiable; good benefits.

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Social Graces

Submitted By Portia Brandon, M.Div.
Christian Education Coordinator

"One Sabbath, when Jesus went to eat in the house of a prominent Pharisee, he was being carefully watched. When he noticed how the guests picked the places



**Portia
Brandon**

of honour at the table, he told them this parable: 'When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honour, for a person more distinguished than you may have been invited. If so, the host who invited both of you will come and say to you, 'Give this man your seat.' Then, humiliated, you will have to take the least important place. But when you are invited, take the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he will say to you, 'Friend, move up to a better place.' Then you will be honoured in the presence of all your fellow guests. For everyone who exalts himself will be honoured in the presence of all your fellow guests. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.' Then Jesus said to his host, 'When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or relatives, or your rich neighbours; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.'"

Luke Chapter 13:1, 7-14

Social graces will help you: Present yourself positively; Behave with courtesy and consideration; Communicate easily and graciously; Feel more self-confident; Avoid embarrassing situations; Handle sticky situations; Gain respect from peers and adults.

Ten Commandments For Social Graces

Thou Shalt Be Thyself. Good Manners begin with a good sense of self. Unless you are true to yourself, you can never be true to others. You are unique. Don't try to shape your personality to meet circumstances. Be natural, and the world will respect you for what you are.

Thou Shalt Say "Thank You." Thanking others is a way of praising them and is one of the keys to having good manners. When someone gives you a compliment, the best response is a simple "thank you." And don't forget "Please", "Excuse me",

and "You're welcome", which are other marks of good manners.

Thou Shalt Give Compliments. A fundamental rule of good manners is to give. Think about what you can give to others, and remember that the most precious gifts cost nothing. When you meet someone, you can always think of a genuine compliment to give. A "Hello" or "How are you?" is not enough. You can also give your undivided attention and interest to others. You can be generous with words of praise, warm greetings, sympathy, love, or other good news.

Thou Shalt Not Be Boastful, Arrogant or Loud. Always exercise restraint and good taste. Your voice, your behavior and even your clothing should reflect understated elegance. Only a small person brags about accomplishments; a well-mannered person has no need for self-advertisement. Let your deeds speak for themselves.

Thou Shalt Listen Before Speaking. Respect for others is a prerequisite of good manners. Listening to others is a way to show respect. There is no worse company than a person that does not listen. Be genuinely interested in others; learn their names, and encourage them to talk about themselves. Never interrupt. Look them in the eye, and listen carefully. The listener learns and thereby gains.

Thou Shalt Speak with Kindness and Caution. Before speaking to others, consider what effect your words will have. Pause and weigh your words carefully and say them with a quality of softness. A slip of the tongue can inflict needless hurt. Also, remember the language of the body (your posture and your mannerisms) is as important as the language of words.

Thou Shalt Not Criticize or Complain. A person with good manners is above criticizing others or complaining about circumstances. Negativity in any form is to be avoided. If you hear gossip, don't join in, be indifferent to it. If you disagree with others, do so respectfully. Don't verbally attack or condemn them. You may win the argument, but lose a valued friend.

Thou Shalt Be Punctual. Appreciate the value of time, yours and others. If you make an appointment, arrive on time. If you must be late, call first. Never arrive early for a social engagement; your host may still be getting dressed! Don't overstay your welcome. Lingering good-byes merely cause frustration and can ruin an otherwise good time. A quick, simple exit at the proper time is usually appreciated.

Thou Shalt Not Embarrass Others. Treat others as you would like to be treated, and think of how you can put them at ease. The feelings of other people can be as fragile as fine crystal. Never demean anyone with rude jokes or an unwelcome nickname. Be considerate. In conversation, never ask embarrassing questions such as how much was paid for a new

item or about matters of the heart. It's always good manners to think of others first.

Thou Shalt Act and Look Your Best. A gracious friend is never ruffled. Be a calming, happy influence in any stressful situation and maintain your composure. See humor whenever possible. Master self-control and have empathy for others. Always act your best with courtesy and politeness. Each day dress as if it were your only chance to shine. A smile should top your list of accessories. Your home, car and workplace should reflect your best. They should be tidy, neat and well organized. Table manners are important. Observe rules of proper conduct, such as not speaking with food in your mouth and not eating until the host has been seated. Eat slowly, enjoying each bite. Savor the moments when good friends, good conversation and good manners bring about the best life has to offer.

Table Manners

Always chew your food silently, with the mouth closed.

Always use your napkin before taking a drink of water.

Always remove your spoon from a cup or tall dish.

Always take your soup from the side of the spoon. With ice cream or puddings, you may turn the teaspoon more toward lip, but never meet any spoon head on.

Always try to eat whatever is served you. At least, eat a small quantity. Make a noble effort to like many foods.

Things To Do

Always chew your food silently, with the mouth closed.

Always use your napkin before taking a drink of water.

Always remove your spoon from a cup or tall dish.

Always take your soup from the side of the spoon. With ice cream or puddings, you may turn the teaspoon more toward lip, but never meet any spoon head on.

Always try to eat whatever is served you. At least, eat a small quantity. Make a noble effort to like many foods.

Always answer definitely when asked to state your preference. It's a real help to the one serving you.

Always take your time, but try to keep pace with others.

Always practice good table manners at home.

Dining Do's and Don'ts

Do ask your waiter for suggestion of dishes that have proved especially popular.

Don't snap your finger at the waiter or call him "garcon" or "boy" ever.

Do make sure, if you're using a credit card with a credit limit, that you haven't reached or exceeded your limit before you decide to plunk it down to pay for your meal.

Things Not To Do

Never lick your fork or spoon. Don't take a generous dab of ice cream or any other food on your spoon and consume it in installments, all-day-sucker fashion. Take small bites and all of each bite at a time.

Never stir coffee or tea vigorously. Once or twice around is enough to mix in cream and sugar.

Never butter a whole slice of bread at once. Break off and butter one rather small piece at a time.

Never sniff suspiciously at an unfamiliar food while you are trying to decide whether it is animal, mineral, or vegetable. If the first bite disappoints you, don't make a face.

Never say, "I'm full", or "I can't eat again for a week."

Never gulp water. Sip from the glass quietly between bites.

Never chase a few peas or bread crumbs around your plate as idle accompaniment to conversation.

Never carry off souvenirs from the table. You are entitled to the favors and your place card if it is the kind that can't be used again.

Never scoop out a baked potato, season it, and churn it back and forth with your fork. Break it open with your fork and eat it from the skin. You may go even further and eat the skin if you can handle it deftly.

Never talk or drink with food in your mouth.

Never scratch your head, yawn, stretch, or slouch at the table.

Never load your fork or spoon too heavily.

Never send your crackers or bread to a watery grave in your soup. The only bread that may be put into soup are croutons or small oyster crackers, and then only two or three at a time.

Never monopolize the conversation or sit in gloomy silence.

Never reach across the table or in front of anyone.

Never serve yourself with your own silver.

Never blow your food to cool it.

Never pick your teeth in the presence of others. Toothpicks, like toothbrushes, are private affairs.

Always pass a pitcher or gravy boat with the handle toward the person receiving it.

It is inappropriate to ask for a doggy bag when you are a guest. Save the doggy bag for informal dining situations.

"How God Spots A Christian" Quiz
What does Jesus say about a woman's appearance? *"In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with braided hair, or gold, or*

Have a blessed and thankful Thanksgiving

Submitted by Dianne Newell
President Congress of Christian Education

"Giving thanks always for the good things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ"
(Ephesians 5:20).

"Be Thankful"

Be thankful that you don't already have everything you desire. If you did, what would there be to look forward to. Be thankful when you don't know...it gives you the opportunity to learn. Be thankful for the difficult times...during those times you grow.

Diane Newell

Be thankful for limitations...they give opportunities for improvement. Be thankful for a new challenge...it will build strength and character. Be thankful for your mistakes...they will teach valuable lessons. Be thankful when you're weary...it means you've made a difference. Be thankful for the mess after a party...it means you have friends. Be thankful for the taxes you pay...it means you are employed. Be thankful for clothes that fit a little snug...it means you have plenty to eat. Be thankful for a shadow that watches you work...it means you are out in the sunshine. Be thankful for a lawn that needs mowing, windows that need cleaning, and gutters that need fixing...it means you have a house. Be thankful for the spot you find at the far end of the parking lot...it means you are capable of walking. Be thankful for all the complaining you hear about our government...it means we have freedom of speech. Be thankful for a huge heating bill...it means you are warm. Be thankful for the lady behind you in church service who sings off key...it means that you can hear. Be thankful for the piles of laundry and ironing...it means your loved ones are nearby. Be thankful for the alarm that goes off in the early morning hours...it means that you're alive. Be thankful for weariness and aching muscles at the end of the day...it means you have been productive.

It's easy to be thankful for the good things. A life of rich fulfillment comes to those who are also thankful for the setbacks.

• Source: Heart to Heart/House to House,
Volume 7, No. 5
Fayetteville, NC, September 2003

A Commentary on the 1993 Sub-Theme:
"The Pastoral Ministries
(Discipleship)"

Supportive Scripture: 2 Timothy 2:15

Compiled by Leo Williams, Jr., Director
Department of Christian Education

"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

"But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness."

The Second Epistle to Timothy derives its name from the person to whom the epistle is written. The name Timothy is the Hebrew for the Greek "Timotheus".

Paul is the author of 2nd Timothy which he wrote from Rome shortly before he was martyred. The Epistle was his last known letter, written between A. D. 64 - 67, composed just a few months after I Timothy.

Paul must have written the second letter to Timothy soon after he was imprisoned the second time. The city of Rome had just been burned by Nero so that, presumably, Nero could realize his plans of building a new "eternal city" from the finest marble in the land.

Since the region of Lystra and Derbe

was the home of Timothy, his mother Eunice, and his grandmother Lois, it seems certain that Timothy's Family had contact with Paul on his first missionary journey.

When Paul came to this area on his second journey, he found Timothy a member of the church, so highly reputed and warmly recommended by the church in the place that Paul could take him to be his companion in his travels.

Young Timothy had been appointed to oversee the work of the church at Ephesus. Many problems developed in his parish, and Paul counseled his "beloved brother" in prudent church decorum and practices.

These pastoral Epistles are important to the modern church because the problems discussed in them are still relevant to congregations today.

He outlined for his beloved friend, the works of a good soldier of the cross to be strong to witness and teach, to endure hardships, and to receive from God understanding in all things. He told Timothy to "remember that Jesus was raised from the dead" and that this fact was the basis for enduring all things for the sake of those who would be saved.

Paul encouraged Timothy to "study the Word", "to avoid profane and vain babblings" (arguments on religion) which only lead to more ungodliness.

The Christian Pastor must so conduct his spiritual life to the extent that God

will give him a "passing grade". The term "pastor" signifies shepherd and well indicates the nature of the relationship he sustains to the church, that of, leading, feeding, teaching, guiding, and guarding the flock committed to his care.

The pastor moves from one crisis to another with those whom he shepherds. In a single day he may visit a mother of a newborn baby, give guidance to a person who is becoming a Christian, unite a couple in marriage, comfort a person who is bereaved, call upon a person who is confronting a serious operation, and listen to the last words of a dying person.

Two thousand years of Christian ministry have conditioned Christians to expect their pastor at these times.

Pastoral ministries requires that the pastor: (1) lead the church in accomplishment of its mission; (2) proclaim the gospel to believers and unbelievers; (3) care for the church's members and other persons in the community; (4) interpret and undergird the work of the church and the denomination.

All the members of the church are called upon to participate in Pastoral Ministries.

The Sunday School, Church Training, Church Ushers, Church Musicians, Missionaries, Laymen League, Committees, Departments, Staff Personnel, Deacons, Trustees, Deaconesses and each member individually are nourished through the Pastor's Administrative and Spiritual Leadership in the function of Pastoral Ministries and the care of souls. ■

GRACES, Cont'd from page 8

pearls, or costly array" (1 Timothy 2:9).

Does God differentiate between men's and women's fashions? (Unisex clothing like pants for women and blouses for men is an abomination unto the Lord.) *"The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment: for all that do so are abomination unto the Lord thy God"* (Deuteronomy 22:5).

How does Jesus say a woman should wear her hair? *"But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering"* (1 Corinthians 11:15).

What is God's response to women who dress, groom and act elegantly? (He smites them, then robs them of their beauty.) *"Moreover, the Lord saith, Because the daughters of Zion are haughty, and walk with stretched forth necks and wanton eyes, walking and mincing as they go, and making a tinkling with their feet: Therefore the Lord will smite with a scab the crown of the head of the daughters of Zion, and the Lord will discover their secret parts. In that day the Lord will take away the bravery of their tinkling ornaments about their feet,*

and their cauls, and their round tires like the moon. The chains, and the bracelets, and the mufflers, The bonnets, and the ornaments of the legs, and the headbands, and the tablets, and the earrings, The rings, and nose jewels, the changeable suits of apparel, and the mantles, and the wimples, and the crisping pins, The glasses, and the fine linen, and the hoods, and the veils" (Isaiah 3:16-23).

What type of tattoos are preferable to God? *"Ye shall not make any cuttings in your flesh for the dead, nor print any marks upon you: I am the Lord"* (Leviticus 19:28). *"They shall not...make any cuttings in their flesh"* (Leviticus 21:5).

Gentlemen:

Open the entrance door for women;
Open the car door for women;
Stand aside and wait for women to exit the elevator before he does;
Wait for the ladies to sit down first;
Stand up when being introduced.

Ladies are never to cross their knees in church. It is conventionally accepted for a lady to cross legs at the ankles, the proper manner is for her to keep both feet flat on the floor.

Ladies applying makeup. Rest

room etiquette, please. Be sure to confine the powdering of your nose to the powder room. You may discreetly apply lipstick if you need to.

Lipstick on glass. Lipstick on your glass has no class.

Don't pick clothes that reveal too much or leave too little to the imagination. And when in doubt, always err on the side of dressing slightly more conservatively than the situation demands.

Wearing shoes that hurt your feet will show in your face.

Always knock and ask permission before entering someone's room.

Don't put your feet up on furniture. Feet do not enhance the look of the desk or the table.

Can't help being late? Make a serious effort to phone ahead and let people know.

Start meetings on time.

Be on time for appointments.

Leave on time, too, for nothing is more boring than someone who overstays his welcome.

Take a stand against records, movies and magazines that put women down and say it's okay to be abusive to women. ■

Southern Regional Workshop attended by NC Laymen

As it appeared in *THE CAROLINIAN*,
Thursday, October 9, 2003 Issue

If participants at the Southern Regional Workshop had wondered in the past, where are the North Carolina laymen; they need not wonder any longer.



Deacon John Gladden

On Friday, Sept. 19 through Sunday, Sept. 21, North Carolina laymen of the General Baptist State Convention were well represented at the Southern Regional Workshop in Memphis, Tennessee. And they made a big

splash.

Several North Carolina laymen were program participants.

On Saturday morning Herbert Odom and Samuel Greene, from the First Baptist Church in Raleigh, were leaders in the Prayer and Testimonial Period.

John Gladden, from Charlotte, the president of the North Carolina State Laymen League, was a presenter during the Welcoming Period; and Dallas Foster, also from the First Baptist Church in

Raleigh, was one of the keynote speakers in the Senior Laymen Period. Foster's topic was "directing Men Toward the Purpose of God."

Several hundred men, women, and children from all of the southern regional states were present, making the workshop one of the largest assemblies of laymen in the Southeast.

The immediate past president of the North Carolina Laymen League, Jarvis Morgan, from the Juniper Level Baptist Church in Wake county, had long promoted the Southern Regional Workshop and had pushed for North Carolina laymen to become more active and visible in the group.

The current state laymen president, John Gladden, continued to aggressively advance Jarvis Morgan's previous effort of making North Carolina laymen more involved with the Southern Regional Workshop.

With the full endorsement and support of Dr. Archie Logan, the executive secretary-treasurer of the General Baptist State Convention, and with the appointment of Theodore David, the second vice president of the state laymen group, as coordinator of recruitment and transportation for the trip to Memphis, Tenn., President Gladden was pleased with the resulting outcome.

Laymen at the Southern Regional

Workshop are now no longer asking, where are the laymen from North Carolina?

Approximately 75 laymen from across North Carolina were present for the workshop and Gladden and David are confident the number will triple for the 2004 workshop that will be held in Huntsville, Ala.

Gladden announced to the North Carolina delegation that the workshop leaders had requested that Dallas Foster speak again in Huntsville.

To deal with the plight of black men, laymen groups are becoming more organized and involved on the local, state, and

national levels.

The workshops, sponsored by laymen groups, address the holistic needs of black men with an emphasis on their spiritual awakening and development.

While ministers are welcomed and used by the Southern Regional Laymen movement, primary emphasis is placed upon laymen training, development, and involvement.

John Gladden, with the assistance of able officers in his cabinet such as Theodore David, and with outstanding local chapter presidents such as Dwight Spencer, is sure that the state laymen organization can assist the churches and other community institutions in salvaging and enriching lives of men.

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By Dr. Jasper P. Reed, Historian, GBSC

A Contemporary History Maker

As we read through our evolving complement of Contemporary History Makers, which is composed of our living



Dr. Jasper
Reed

past convention Presidents, we find the Hand of the Lord moving over common terrain. He, the Lord our God, visited the area of Nashville, NC on more than one occasion in this series. Each time He found a ready and an

available servant. Our contemporary history maker for this month is Past General Baptist State Convention President Rev. Dr. W. B. Lewis the august pastor of the First Cosmopolitan Missionary Baptist Church in Raleigh, NC. He was born in Nashville, NC and is a proud and productive son of that region. Having received his preparedness in the area his spiritual calling led him to Shaw University to pursue a Bachelors Degree in Religion and Sociology. He continued to prepare for the Lord's Work by earning a Masters of

Divinity from Shaw Divinity School. While this would have been sufficient for some it was not for Dr. Lewis. He did further work at Southeastern Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, NC and in 1998 he was awarded a Doctor of Ministry Degree from Saint Mary's Seminary and University in Baltimore, Maryland.

Our contemporary history maker is married to the former Lillie Mae Hilliard who holds a Bachelors Degree from Fayetteville State University, Fayetteville, NC. He is the devoted father to two daughters. His oldest holds a Bachelors Degree from Virginia State University and a Masters from North Carolina Central University both degrees in music. The younger received a Bachelors and a Masters Degree in Microbiology from UNC Greensboro. He has one son-in-law who graduated from ECU in Business Education and two grandsons.

Dr. Lewis is a life long Baptist who has served his calling very well in many arenas. He has served his present congregation effectively and efficiently for many years. However, he is fondly remembered by some of his other pastorates. These include Bethlehem Baptist and Wake Chapel Baptist in Wake County, NC. Also New Bethel Baptist Church in Clayton,

NC, and Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church in Wilmington, NC. In addition to his pastorates he served the Baptist of North Carolina in many capacities over the years. He served from the clerk of associations to the president of the General Baptist State Convention. Along the way he left his spiritual mark as clerk of Wake and Johnston Missionary Baptist Associations, Nash County as President of its BTU Convention, and Wake Baptist Association as its Moderator. He served diligently his alma mater as President of the Pastors' Conference and the Theological Alumni Association of Shaw Divinity School. He served his community as a member of the Voters league, President of the Interracial Inter-denominational Ministerial Association of Raleigh and Vicinity, Secretary of the Inter-faith Commission of Wilmington, NC and YMCA Board of Directors. Further, he served the State of NC, Lott Carey Foreign Mission convention, Shaw University as a member of its board of trustees, Prince Hall Masons, and as a board

Member of a Low Income Housing Corporation.

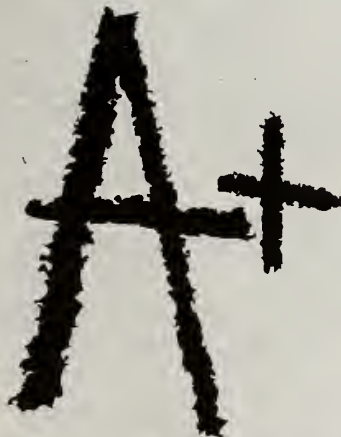
Our contemporary history maker is a builder among other things. He is a builder of spiritual unity as well as physical plants. He has been blessed indeed by

the Lord to have his coast enlarged. He was the pastor of Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church when he under the guidance of the Holy Spirit helped them to rise from the ashes and build their current sanctuary. He is still building and enlarging the physical plant of the First Cosmopolitan

Baptist Church. Beyond being a pastor, an administrator, a minister, and a builder our history maker is a world traveler. He has traveled to the Holy Land, Europe, Africa, the Balkans, and England. India, and Korea to name a few.

As President of the General Baptist State Convention Dr. Lewis was involved in the writing of a comprehensive history of the convention and its auxiliaries, clarified the mission of the convention, obtained four acres of land for a new Baptist Headquarters building, activated the ten associational districts, inaugurated an insurance plan for the convention, re-instated the department of health and human services for children and pregnant mothers, inaugurated the east-west moderators conferences, and established a partnership with Shaw University to work with churches setting up day care needs for their congregations and communities. His, Dr. Lewis' administration, raised the standard of monetary giving. His heartfelt theme was couched in Luke 5:4, "—Push your boat out further to the deep water, and you and your partners let down your nets for a catch," TEV.

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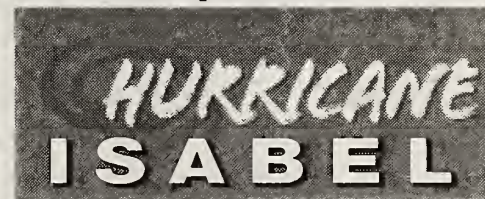
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From GBSC President Dr. Charles T. Bullock

Blessings and Peace! Thursday, September 18, 2003, Hurricane Isabel caused great damages to Northeast North Carolina. We lost several GBSC Churches and many families are still without power. Dr. Thurman B. Everett, Executive Secretary-Treasurer Logan, Rev. Dennis Brown and I traveled to the affected area, September 24, 2003. We took a truck & van load of water and food supplies to Murfreesboro, Ahoskie and Windsor, N.C.

Three GBSC Associations have set up centers in the affected areas to respond to the crisis. The distribution centers are: North Hampton County Association, Nebo Baptist Church, Murfreesboro, N.C., Moderator Robert Holloman, 252-332-2738; West Roanoke Association, Moderator Ralph White, 252-794-9173, 242-794-4974; Roanoke Association, Moderator Ricky Banks, 2520-335-5033, 252-339-3438; New Ahoskie Baptist Church, Rev. Patrick Young, Pastor, 252-332-4357, 252-347-2330 and Oxley Hill Missionary Baptist Church, Rev. Vonner G. Horton, Pastor, 252-4820-8476, 252-482-3179.

We are a faith community and believe that God is Able to bless in any situation. We know that together we can overcome this tragedy and disaster. We will look to God, God is our strength and strong arm of protection: Read, PSALM 27. We ask that our churches and prayer teams continue in special prayer for the recovery of those affected by Hurricane Isabel. If you or your congregation want to help PLEASE make contributions and send food and water to the centers directly. Please respond as soon as possible.

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The Prevailing Church

By Dr. Donaldson Jones, President



Dr. Donaldson
Jones

The contemporary Christian church is in constant and continuous conflict with a combative secularized culture. Our culture is saturated and sublimated by satanic subtleties that have slipped and slid into every sector of society.

Even now, Satan, the king of chaos is the kingdom of sin is sitting on his sinister sect of sinfulness at the headquarters of hell. Even now, satan is going about his daily diabolical, dirty duty of passing out badges of blasphemy to his deputized disciples of demonic devices. Even now, satan is hatching up hell on earth to hassle and

harass the holy. And hell is totally committed to hindering if not halting the lofty objectives of our Lord's living organism. The church. Nevertheless, however hostile or horrendous the haters of the Christian church, historians will never record the death, write the obituary of publish the funeral oration of the church.

The essential essence and eloquence of the Master's message in Matt. 16:28 is that the church is raised relies and rest upon the solid rock reality of Jesus said, "upon this rock I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail again it."

Matt 16:18

redemption through the infallible, unfailing Christ and all who resign sin and satan and resolutely receive Christ and registered royalty on the regeneracy roster of that gloriously immortal institution – the prevailing church.

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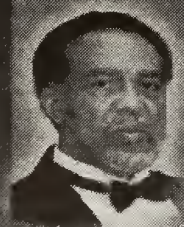
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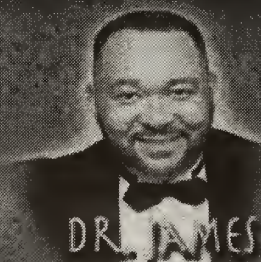
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Peace Be Unto You: Our Unconditional Love

By A. T. Griffey, III
Statistician, GBSC



Dr. A.T.
Griffey, III

When we become a Child of God, through faith in Jesus for the forgiveness of sin, He loves us in spite of our failures – in spite of the way we stumble and sometimes fall. But what type of love do we give in return? Do we have a continual love which remains through good and bad, or do we love only during our “scheduled” times and only when the conditions of our life are favorable for worship?

The prophet Habakkuk ministered during the same general time as Jeremiah, Daniel, and Ezekiel. This was a time when the southern kingdom of Judah was being invaded by Babylon and there was great wickedness in the land. Habakkuk asked God many of the same questions

we might ask today: “How long, O Lord, must I call for help, but You do not listen? Or cry out to you, “Violence!” but You do not save?” (Habakkuk 1:2.)

Habakkuk was frustrated that God appeared slow in answering his prayers and was allowing so much evil to go unpunished. Yet through these many trials, Habakkuk developed a deep and unwavering love.

Habakkuk 3:17-18: “Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior.”

Habakkuk presented his heart-felt and anguished concerns; but regardless of the outcome, his love for God would remain unchanged. Even if every one of his prayers seemed to go unanswered, he was determined to love God with all his heart. This same love was expressed by Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego before they were thrown into the furnace. They knew God could save them, but their love did not depend on being rescued: “But even if He does not {save us}, we want you to know, O king, that we will not

serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up” (Daniel 3:18). They loved God simply because He was God!

We know there will be times when the world around us seems to fall apart – times when our life begins to crumble and the heat of the furnace seems very real. There will also be many times when we just don’t understand God’s plan or timing. Our path may seem unclear and His timing painfully slow. When this occurs,

we must strive for a love that doesn’t fade or waver – a love which isn’t weakened by heat or torn by the forces of the wind.

Our Heavenly Father is our only true source of comfort and strength; “He alone is my rock and my salvation: He is my fortress, I will never be shaken” (Psalm 62:2). He has given His very best; let’s return our ALL in a life of unbroken worship. Let’s faithfully give Him our unconditional love.

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Thanksgiving's Empty Chair

By Delores Griffey

Luke 15: 25 - 32

Just how deep does your gratitude run for God?

The Passage about the Prodigal's Brother

On such a great day for thanksgiving, surprisingly every chair was filled except one. It was the chair right next to the robe



Delores Griffey

covered prodigal. It belonged to the elder brother. The good boy who minded his own business, lived by the rules and stayed clear of trouble was coming home after a hard day of chores on the ranch. He heard the commotion

but was unaware that the fuss had to do with a surprise homecoming by baby brother.

You would have thought the news would have followed with a heartfelt reunion of two brothers. As far as he figured it, he'd never lay eyes on his brother again. He was as good as dead. Come to think of it, the fact that his younger sibling ever had the nerve to come back begin to muster up some deeply negative feelings. The prodigal basically told dad he was as good as dead by asking for his inheritance before there was any talk of funerals. And while he ran off to live with reckless irresponsibility, who bore the brunt of responsibility but big brother. And how could dad even consider throwing a party for a son that treated him so shamefully. Not to mention, how did he ever let him step one foot on the estate, at all?

It was more than he could stand. His hearty appetite seemed to fade with the news of celebration over his brothers return to the family farm. It was repulsive and he wanted no part of the unscheduled party. He refused to go in to the house - to

welcome back his brother. No forgetting and no forgiving would come from him.

Then something happens, not sure if he sees his older son through a window or gets word of his refusal to join the party- the father steps out to urge his older son to join them at the table. The pleading must have been just too much for this son to bear. Like a dam that gives way, the older son breaks loose with great emotion all the feelings that he's held back for a long time.

Out comes resentment toward dad for not giving him such treatment. He is embittered by his brothers unbridled passions and wasted living. He is frustrated that he will again have to share the farm with his brother- the loser. The last thing in the world he wants to do is have a party- and he makes this perfectly clear!

Here's the underlying question.

The controlling question for all of us-

HOW CAN A BLESSED PERSON BECOME SO EXTREMELY UNGRATEFUL?

If any one should have been absolutely contented, shouldn't it have been the older brother?

Amazingly doing all the right things, possessing the benefits of estate living are not guarantees of a grateful heart.

Looking at the interchange between father and elder brother, we discover some things that point to a heart plagued with thanklessness.

I. He was Performance Driven

v.29 "Lo, these many years, I have been serving you...I never transgressed...and yet you never gave me a goat"

This statement uncovers much of the reason this brother lacked joy:

1. The older brother marks time
2. The older brother tracks behavior
3. The older brother feels entitled

II. He was Possessions Blind

v.31 the father reminds the son, "all that I have is yours"

The older brother had everything but still felt he needed something more

Plenty of people miss their share of happiness, not because they haven't found it, but because they haven't stopped to enjoy it.

The younger brother learned true riches out of his poor decisions which brought poverty vv.17-18

What standard do you use to determine your blessings?

III. He was Relationally Distant

v. 30- He described his brother as "this son of yours"

was it motivated out of resentment or arrogance?

v. 31- The father had to remind him, "Son, you are always with me"

He took this for granted- he lived on the father's farm but failed to learn the father's heartSO

- he could not understand his father's nature

- he could not share in the father's joy

The father ends his discussion with these words (32) "It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your

brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found."

What should this mean to the older brother and to us? If we are unable to share in the joy of the Father's heart, something is definitely wrong!

Lets look at the circumstances that invoked this and 2 other stories about lostness- LUKE 15:1-2

It's prodigal-like people that flock to Jesus. Why? They are drawn to the Savior because they are really thankful.

It's elder-brother like people that find this sight offensive.

In arrogance they are blinded by their own achievements.

They are consumed by a want for more- never really stopping to say thank you Father.

They have no room to love because they are keeping record.

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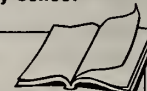
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- Sunday School Membership Survey Form
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Dr. Claude Alexander, Host Pastor

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Dr. Clifford A. Jones, Sr.

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FROM HIGHWAY 27 AND 16: Mount Holly, Lincolnton and Stanley. Take 85 North to Beatties Ford Road Exit and make a left on to Beatties Ford Road, Church is on left.

FROM 74 EAST: Marchville and Monroe. Take 74 West to Brookshire Freeway (which is also Highway 16), get off at Johnson C. Smith University exit. Make a left turn to 3239 Beatties Ford Road. Church on left.

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The Poteat Program Office

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North Carolina Baptist Usher's Convention

Officers' Retreat

When: Friday, November 7, 2003

Where: J.J. Johnson Baptist Assembly
Laurel Hill, NC

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Annual Workshop

When: Saturday, November 8, 2003

Where: J.J. Johnson Baptist Assembly
Laurel Hill, NC

Time: 9:00 a.m.

REGISTRATION \$10.00

Mr. Forest M. Eaves, Jr., President

Voice Mail: (704) 372-5338 • Fax: (704) 372-0014

Mary M. McKoy, Secretary • (919) 963-3368

Email: JoyMinistry@aol.com

Annual Report: Sept. 1, 2002 - August 31, 2003

Rev. Michael R. Smith, Sr., Chairman

The Institutional & Specialized Ministries sought to increase our efforts over this past year in providing training, education and opportunities for churches of the GBSC to reach, reconcile and



Rev. Michael Smith, Sr.

Reverend Wavey B. Williams (At-Risk Youth Coordinator) who has been faithful in reaching out to our youth in this state. Our strategic area of outreach this past year has been to at-risk youth. The ISM has sought to share and promote preventive methods of keeping our youth from becoming incarcerated or entering destructive lifestyles. Our 3rd Annual Crime & Incarceration Conference's theme was "Biblical Strategies to Reach Our At-Risk Youth".

The times the Church faces demand that we assess our priorities and reevaluate our methods of ministry if we are to be effective in impacting this dark world

restore lives impacted by crime and incarceration. The members of the committee have been responsive to my leadership in seeking to help our churches all over the state in responding to this crisis. Special recognition should go to

for Jesus Christ. I exhort this convention to move the crime and incarceration crisis to a higher priority in the GBSC. I call church leaders to ensure you have a special Sunday worship to highlight the Lord's ministry in the areas of prison, at-risk youth, victims of crime and aftercare. I must admit the response of this convention in this area has not been what it should or can be. I pray the GBSC will be sensitized to the crime and incarceration crisis and what the present and future implications mean for our communities. Jesus said, "Go into all the world and make disciples..." This command includes the prisons and darkest communities in order to shine the light of the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ.

ISM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 2nd Annual Crime & Incarceration Conference
September 27-28, 2002
Federal Correctional Complex - Butner, NC
- Letter Sent To All GBSC Churches Urging Them To Support Full-Time State Chaplains in N. C. Division of Prisons
December 9, 2002
- Prison Ministry Training at Body of Christ Church - Raleigh, NC
December 14, 2002
- Prison Ministry Training at St. Matthews Baptist Church - Raleigh, NC
January 11, 2003
- Chairman Smith - Speaker at Mitchell Baptist Church - Louisburg, NC
January 26, 2003

- Attended Promise Keepers Pastor's Conference - Phoenix, Arizona
February 17-20, 2003
- At-Risk Youth Conference - Springfield Memorial Baptist Church - Gastonia, NC
Coordinated by Wavey B. Williams
February 2-22, 2003

Chairman Smith Names National Chaplain of the Year
By Federal Bureau of Prisons
April 2003

Chairman Smith Attended National BOP Chaplains Meeting - Detroit, Michigan
May 12-15, 2003

Chairman Smith Speaker at 2nd New Light Baptist Church - St. Pauls, NC
Institutionalized Ministries Day
May 18, 2003

Prison Ministry Training - Markham Baptist Church - Durham, NC
May 31, 2003

Coalition Meeting with Prison Fellowship Ministries - Cary, NC
June 17, 2003

3rd Annual Crime & Incarceration Conference - Shaw University - Raleigh, NC
August 1-2, 2003

Rockingham County Jail Ministry Outreach - Rockingham, NC
Led by Revs. Carolyn Brown & Michael Pope
August 16, 2003

The Cross of Christ church plant at the Federal Correctional Complex in Butner, NC continues to grow spiritually and gain support and affirmation from other local churches.

The ISM is seeking to partner with other para-church organizations in order to build a coalition of like-minded ministries. Chairman Smith also continues to give input and promote GBSC interests to the N. C. Advisory Committee on Religious Ministry in Prisons. Again, much thanks goes to all ISM committee members over this past year. ■

GENERAL BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION OF NORTH CAROLINA, INC.
Charles T. Bullock, President
Archie D. Logan, Jr., Executive Secretary-Treasurer

"TO SERVE THIS PRESENT AGE"

INSTITUTIONAL & SPECIALIZED MINISTRIES Leadership

Michael R. Smith, Sr., Chairman
Senior Chaplain/Pastor - Federal Correctional Complex
Cross of Christ Church
Butner, N. C.

Jeff Locus, Co-Chairman
Chaplain/Pastor - Federal Correctional Institution, Cumberland, Maryland

Betty Brown, Director of Chaplaincy Services
N. C. Department of Correction, Raleigh, N. C.

Wright Cadwell, Coordinator of In-Prison Ministries
Associate Minister - First Baptist Church, Raleigh, N.C.

Paul Bridges, Coordinator of Aftercare Ministries
Associate Minister - First Baptist Church, Raleigh, N. C.

Carolyn Brown, Coordinator of Aftercare Ministries
Associate Minister - North End Baptist Church, Rocky Mount, N. C.

Laura Johnson, Coordinator of Victim Ministries
Assistant Pastor - First Baptist Church, Zebulon, N. C.

Leonard Shadding, Coordinator of Victim Ministries
Member - First African Baptist Church, Goldsboro, N. C.

Michael Pope, Coordinator of At-Risk Youth Ministries
Associate Minister - Oak City Baptist Church, Raleigh, N. C.

Wavey B. Williams, Coordinator of At-Risk Youth Ministries
Director - A.R.M.Y. of Christ Ministry, Gastonia, N. C.

Spivey appointed to Budget Committee

By Thomas E. Spivey, CPA
Chairman of the Budget Committee

I bring you greetings and blessings in the name of Jesus. Dr. Charles T. Bullock has appointed me Chairman of the Budget Committee. My primary mission is to coordinate, develop, and analyze the budgetary process for the Convention. My primary goals are to improve accountability and increase cash flows. Accountability is part of God's stewardship.

God's word tells us in the parable of the unjust servant in Luke 16:1-13 that we are to be good managers of what we are entrusted with. The Convention is a manager of some financial resources that have been earmarked for other organizations. This is a part of the Unified Plan and Designated Gifts. When money is received for these items, we become managers who have a responsibility to ensure

it gets to its designated objective. We also have a responsibility to ensure that the basic mission including administrative support is funded.



Thomas E. Spivey, CPA

Some of you (churches) who support the Convention have expressed concerns about the Unified Plan and Designated Gifts not getting to the designated organizations. My duties are to improve this perception by helping to implement policies to safeguard these gifts. I know it will take some time and effort to implement these goals and objectives. I am asking each of you to intervene with intercessory prayer for wisdom, knowledge, and determination for the General Baptist State Convention of NC to implement an improved plan of good stewardship and accountability.

Thomas E. Spivey is the president of Thomas E. Spivey, CPA, PA, a Certified Public Accounting firm in Durham, NC. Visit them at www.tespiveycpapa.com or call (919) 484-3000. ■

Zippy Orange Chicken and Rice

LOW FAT, GENEROUS, HEALTHY

PREP TIME: 10 Min.

TOTAL TIME: 25 Min.

INGREDIENTS

1/2 cup Miracle Whip Light Dressing, divided

4 boneless skinless chicken breast halves
(about 1-1/4 lb.), cut into strips

1 green pepper, cut into strips

1 cup orange juice

2 Tbsp. brown sugar

1-1/2 cups Minute white rice

1 can (11 oz.) mandarin orange segments,
drained, or 1 orange, peeled, sectioned

1 can (8 oz.) pineapple chunks, drained

Great Substitute: Substitute Minute brown rice for white rice!

Season chicken with salt and pepper. Place oil in a shallow baking pan; add chicken breasts halves and bake at 350° for 30 minutes. Combine orange juice, miracle whip, brown sugar, and soy sauce, simmer for 4 minutes. Baste chicken with sauce, bake 35 minutes longer, basting several times with sauce. Place chicken under broiler for a few minutes, just until browned. Garnish with pineapple slices and green pepper. Serve with remaining sauce over hot cooked rice. Chicken breasts recipe serves 4 to 6.

Nutritional Bonus

This low fat skillet meal serves up a good source of Vitamin C, thanks to winning combination of mandarin oranges and orange juice.

Diet Exchange:

1-1/2 starch, 1 fruit, 4 meal (VL), 1 fat

Ninety-One "GBSC" Enrollees Eligible to Save \$54,600 in Prescription Medications

Recently released enrollment figures indicate that at least ninety-one individuals have enrolled in NC's new prescription assistance program, NC Senior



Dr. Anita Holmes

Care. Since each enrollee is eligible to save up to \$54,600. The General Baptist State Convention's Office of Health and Human Services recently partnered with the NC Health and Wellness Trust Fund Commission and the NC Office of Rural Health to assist NC Seniors 65 of age and older with the cost of prescription medications for heart disease, diabetes, and/or chronic obstructive lung disease.

Program Benefits

Senior Care offers a traditional drug benefit program. The Program pays for sixty percent of the first one thousand dollars (up to \$600 per year) of the cost for prescription drugs and insulin for the treatment of cardiovascular disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and/or diabetes. Program members pay the remaining forty percent of the cost for covered drugs, and \$6.00 for each 30-day prescription.

Covered Drugs

Senior Care covers outpatient drugs that require a prescription, including insulin, if the drugs are treatments for the following:

- Hypertension - High Blood Pressure
- Hyperlipidemia - High Cholesterol
- Angina - Chest Pain



- Arrhythmia - Irregular Heartbeat
- Diabetes Mellitus - Sugar Diabetes
- Heart Failure
- Emphysema
- Bronchitis
- Asthma

Health Questionnaire

The application package contains a voluntary health questionnaire. This information is used to check potentially harmful problems such as drug interactions, overmedication, duplication, and inappropriate use. If a possible problem is detected, Prescription Assistance Centers throughout the state are available for voluntary prescription and health counseling.

Income

Applicants must have a total annual income from 2002 of \$17,720 or less if single or widowed, and \$23,880 or less if married.

If you would like an application form(s) and/or assistance with the enrollment process, please contact the Office of Health and Human Services at:

General Baptist State Convention of NC
Office of Health and Human Services
200 Meredith Dr., Suite 103
Durham, NC 27713
(919) 572-6374 Ext. 4

We are also available to work with volunteers willing to assist seniors with the enrollment process.

NC Senior Care and the Prescription Assistance Centers are funded by the NC Health and Wellness Trust Fund Commission.



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Thought For The Month: "God Loves and Gives"

By Reverend Rickly L. Banks

The story is told of a father who overheard one of his children say to another, "You must be good or Father won't love you." And the father said to them, "That is not true, my boy. I don't love you because you are good; I love you because you are my own son. If you grew up to become the worst man in the world, I would still love you even though I could not approve of anything you said or did. Even though you broke my heart, I would still love you."

"If that is so, Father," said the boy, "then I will be good."

God loves us even if we are sinners – perhaps because we are sinners who

need a Saviour. He gave His Son to die for us in proof of His love. "For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. And not only so, but

Verse For The Month:

But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 5:8

we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement" (Romans 5:10-11).

Many have responded to God's love. But there are many others yet to be reached with the message of God's saving power through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The good news from The Children's Home is things are going well. The population is up, with improved services, the transitional

classroom is only months away from being a reality, with the accreditation process still moving forward. Please pray for the children and the home that

it will be all God wants it to be. Remember us in your upcoming budget. Call us at (252) 335-5003 or (252) 339-3438. ■

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Shaw University Hosts Annual Coronation Ceremony

Submitted by Dr. Linda Bryan

Shaw University hosted its Annual Coronation Ceremony for Miss Shatima Seward, a native of Dolphin, Virginia, on October 10th at 7:00 p.m. in the Spaulding Gymnasium. Miss Seward, who is a senior majoring in Chemistry reigns for the 2003-2004 academic year.

Some of Miss Seward's responsibilities as Miss Shaw University include serving as the official Queen of the University and the official representative of the student body at University social, athletic and special events for the 2003-2004 Academic Year. Miss Seward will also participate in local high school recruitment efforts as needed and is required to attend meetings pertinent to the student body.

Miss Seward is also a Presidential Scholarship recipient, a member of the Student Ambassador's Program, and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. During her Coronation speech, Miss Seward expressed her gratitude to Shaw University. "As I embark on this journey well-traveled by my predecessors, I am constantly reminded of Luke 12:28, For everyone to whom much is given, much will be required. Shaw University has invested great resources in my educational and personal development, and although I can never truly repay this debt I owe, I will constantly strive to do so.

Ms. Seward is the daughter of Mr.



Shaw University President Dr. Clarence G. Newsome and First Lady Lynne Newsome with Miss Shaw University 2003 Shatima Seward.

and Mrs. Calvin Seward. Mr. Seward is a Quarry Foreman at Vulcan Materials in Emporia, VA and Mrs. Seward is a Residential Supervisor for the Rainbow House in Lawrenceville, VA.

Shaw University, founded in 1865, is the oldest historically Black institution of higher learning in the South. The University is under the leadership of Dr. Clarence G. Newsome. President Newsome's leadership pursues the theme: "Strides to Excellence: Only the Best!"

Faculty Attends ATS Conference

Submitted by Dr. Linda Bryan

The full-time faculty of Shaw University Divinity School, under the leadership of Dean Roberson, traveled to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania October 3-5 to attend a Workshop for Administrators and Faculty of Historically Black ATS Institutions. The activity was held at the Hyatt Regency Pittsburgh Hotel. In addition to the Shaw University Divinity School, five other Historically Black seminaries were represented: Howard University Divinity School in Washington, D.C.; Payne Theological Seminary in Wilberforce, OH; Hood Theological Seminary in Salisbury, N.C.; Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC) in Atlanta, GA; and Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology in Richmond, VA.

The purpose of the Workshop was to provide a forum for Historically Black Theological Seminaries (HBTS) to come together to begin collaborating and planning venues for the six schools to work closer together. Of the 238 ATS schools, only six are Historically Black. Through a grant from the Lilly Foundation, the Association of Theological Schools (ATS) provided sponsorship for all participants who attended the Workshop.

The six persons attending the workshop from Shaw University Divinity

School were: Dr. J.T. Roberson, Dean; Dr. Linda Bryan, Assistant Dean; Dr. James Ashmore, Assistant Professor of Old Testament; Dr. Mikael Broadway, Assistant Professor of Theology; Dr. James Holmes, Assistant Professor of Church History; and Dr. Rudolph Tripp, Assistant Professor of Pastoral Studies.

Dean Roberson was invited to conduct a workshop on Culturally Sensitive Theological Education in Historically Black Seminaries. This workshop was an extension of the Non-Traditional Theological Education Conference held at Shaw University Divinity School in July in which the six Historically Black Theological Seminaries were invited to participate. Dr. Linda Bryan was invited to deliver the opening homily for the ATS Workshop in Pittsburgh and got the program off to a spiritually provoking start. Other conference leaders included Dr. Albert Aymer of Hood Theological Seminary, Dr. Cane Hope Felder of Howard University Divinity School, Dr. Randall Bailey of ITC, and Dr. John Kinney of the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology.

The faculty was able to attend various workshops with faculty from the other Historically Black Theological Seminaries where healthy dialogue and sharing of ideas and concerns were expressed.

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"Thank You"
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Dr. Archie Logan and Rev. Freeman, Mt. Olive Baptist Church, Durham.



Dr. Archie Logan and Mr. and Mrs. Martin.

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2003 HOUSING BANQUET

The General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc.

Annual

TICKETS
\$150.⁰⁰

2003 HOUSING BANQUET

RALEIGH CONVENTION CENTER

500 Fayetteville Street • Raleigh, NC

Guest Speaker:

**Reverend
Jesse Jackson**

Founder and President
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December 5, 2003

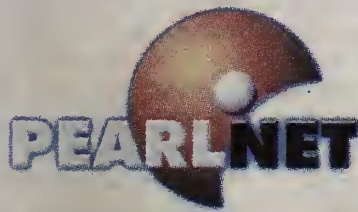
6:30 PM

Dr. Charles T. Bullock, President
Dr. Archie D. Logan, Jr, Executive Secretary
Dr. Thurman Everett, Housing Chairman

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Many religious organizations are installing computers and networks to be used in after school programs to expose our children to computer technology in order to shrink the technical divide that has been growing over the past few years. Let us help you establish the foundation necessary to help our children and adults shrink that technical divide.

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DR. ARCHIE D. LOGAN, JR., EXECUTIVE SECRETARY • DR. THURMAN EVERETT, CHAIRMAN

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Shaw University Honors Retirees & Employees

Shaw University held its Annual Retirement Luncheon recently in the Willie E. Gary Student Center Ballroom. Two retirees, Mrs. Mary Moore Newton and Dr. Conduff Childress, were honored during the ceremony. In addition, the University recognized each individual who had been employed with the University for five or more years.

Mrs. Mary Moore Newton is a native of Raleigh, NC and a graduate of Washington High School. In 1978, Mrs. Newton received her Bachelor's degree from Shaw University in Business Administration with a concentration in Accounting. Before joining the Shaw University family, she served as a Secretary for the now retired Judge George R. Green. For 37 years Mrs. Newton served Shaw University. She has served in several departments, including the Secretary Service, Campaign Office, the Business Office, the Computer Center, the Registrar's Office and the Divinity School. From 1988 through her retirement, she served in the Financial Aid Office in the area of Fiscal Affairs. Mrs. Newton is an active member of Martin Street Baptist Church where she is a

member of the choir, the Women's Missionary Circle and participates in Sunday School. She is also a member of the Young Women's Christian Association



Caption: President Newsome (l) and Mr. Crosse (r), VP for Fiscal Affairs, present Mrs. Newton (c) with awards during Shaw University's Annual Retirement Luncheon.

(YWCA), and the Iota Phi Lambda Sorority. She is married to Meldon Newton and they have three children, Zylphia, Meldon, Jr. and Bruce. In addition to receiving a certificate and plaque from the University, Mrs. Newton also received a resolution from the area of

Fiscal Affairs.

Dr. Conduff Childress is a native of Hills Ville, Virginia. He received his Bachelor of Science Degree in



Caption: for Ms. Dunn: President Newsome presents Ms. Dunn with a certificate in honor of her more than 40 years of employment with the University during a recent ceremony.

Mathematics from Davidson College and his Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy Degrees in Mathematics from the University of South Carolina. For 11 years, Dr. Childress served in the Department of Mathematics. In total, Dr. Childress has taught mathematics for 41

years. Dr. Childress, who is active in Paleontology (the study of fossils), is a member of the Natural History Museum in Raleigh where he completed the construction of the skull of a Sloth. The Sloth is on exhibit in the Museum, which is located in downtown Raleigh.

In addition to honoring the retirees, the University paid tribute to Ms. Lillie Mae Dunn for having more than 40 years of service with Shaw University. Ms. Dunn, who has worked for Shaw University for 41 years, began her employment with the University on October 4, 1961. Ms. Dunn began her employment in the Education Department. She has also worked in University Relations and has more than 30 years of combined experience in the area of Student Affairs as a Secretary and Administrative Assistant. Born and raised in Raleigh, NC, Ms. Dunn is a member of Martin Street Baptist. Her family and friends were on hand with Ms. Dunn to share in her special day. They include her sisters, Mary Dunn and Gladys Cannon, her brother-in-law, Hubert Cannon, her brother Kenneth Dunn and his wife Muriel and her pastor, Dr. Charles T. Bullock and his wife, Shirley.

Thank You for your service to

Shaw University



"Shaw University is very grateful to all of its employees for their dedication and commitment to excellence. It is because of the hard and diligent work of Shaw University's faculty, staff, and administrators that the University is able to provide its students with the support and services they need and deserve. The University would like to give special recognition to those Shaw University employees who have served the University for five or more years. Strides to Excellence: Only the Best!"

Thank You

Clarence G. Newsome, PhD
President

Shaw University Employees & Years of Service

★ YEARS 40-45

Robena Bradley
Lillie M. Dunn

★ YEARS 35-39

Rena Blyther-Daniels
McLouis Clayton
Mildred H. Hooker
Minnie M. McMillan
Mary M. Newton

★ YEARS 30-34

Mayme L. Banks
Joan Barrax
Roy M. Cannady
Vivian M. Galbreath
George E. Hatcher, Jr.
Willie C. High
Rupert Patterson, Jr.
Mack Sowell

★ YEARS 25-29

Marilyn J. Fields
Mary E. Lanier
John McCullum
Lois A. Norfleet
Bobby L. Sanders

★ YEARS 25-29

Calvin Swinson

★ YEARS 20-24

Khalil Abdul-Muhaimin
Laureen Braxton
Charles V. Brown
Alfonza Carter
Harish Chander
Harish Daniels
Rita S. C. Henning
David L. Howard
Mma A. Kalu
John Newell
Carolyn L. Parks
Joseph L. Richardson
Jessie B. Smith
Vaughan Witten

★ YEARS 15-19

Eugene N. Baskerville, Jr.
Bernard Bugg
Lonieta T. Cornwall
Lillian P. Cummings
Emeka L. E. Emekauwa
Stella Goldston
Carlton H. Goode

★ YEARS 15-19

Robert Hastings
Maxine Highsmith
Annetta M. Knight-Burgess
Shirley F. Martin
Onuorah I. Nnamdi
Joseph Palmer
Corbett Rawls
Kunnavakkam Satagopan
Samuel E. Saunders, Jr.
DeYeong Shin
Mary F. Sifford
Robert Smith
Daniel Stewart
Nicola Talhami

★ YEARS 10-14

Raymond Alaribe
Ali Al-Taie
Agnes B. Baxter
Lisa M. Blair
Tyrone Blue
Shelia L. Bourne
Lillie M. Boyd
Linda W. Bryan
Darnell Bryant
Conduff G. Childress, Jr.

★ YEARS 10-14

Brian C. Cumberbatch
Caroline Dimkpogu-Nwosu
Ademola L. Ejire
Shirley Fennell
Dianthia Ford-Kee
Hooshang Foroudastan
Elaine N. Hargrave
Evangeline L. January
James Johnson
James F. Kirkley
James T. McCallum Jr.
Kenneth E. McKiver
Williams D. Montique
Patricia W. Nwosu
Gloria C. Odum
Edwin C. Okoye
Joyce J. Pandelis
Cleone Pierce
Michael C. Rochelle
Ida F. Sims
Sherby Speight
Howard D. Spruill
Sheryl L. Stephenson-Seib
Charles A. Tita
Simon N. Ugwuoke
Randall Vogt

Eric A. Weil
Paul E. Wilson
Carol B. Wortham

★ YEARS 5-9

April Abbott
James P. Ashmore
Deogratias A. Banks
Nicole Barnhill
Ronald W. Bishop
Regina Boone
Mikael Broadway
Anthony J. Brown
Carol Bunch
Regina C. Chukwu
Tonia T. Clark
Shawnda L. Cooper
Vonda M. Easterling
Remigius Emeto
Stanley O. Ervin
Mercy F. Fapojuwo
Gaddis J. Faulcon
Sahr K. Gbondo
Reekitta K. Grimes
Bernadine W. Hall
Ann G. Harris
Lemuel B. Harrison
Cynthia M. Hill

★ YEARS 5-9

Kenneth Hinton
Kenneth Holly
Edward G. House
Daniel L. Howard
Walter K. Humphrey
Lucky Imade
Rachida C. Jackson
John R. Jones
Shirley T. Kearney
Irving C. Lofton
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New All Africa Conference of Churches General Secretary Visits NCC, CWS

Submitted by Carol J. Smith,
Managing Editor

Determination to equip Africa's churches to respond powerfully to the continent's pressing needs characterizes Bishop Mvume Dandala, the new head of Africa's leading ecumenical organization. Dandala, 51, a South African who in



Carol J. Smith

September became General Secretary of the Nairobi, Kenya-based All Africa Conference of Churches, does not mince words when he describes Africa's daunting challenges of "tragic poverty," "HIV/AIDS and other killer diseases" and "conflict brought by political despots."

But he doesn't stop there. "Sometimes when people see the wars that continue to afflict us, they don't see the positive things," he says – "a continent trying to deal with its problems" and the enormous potential of Africa's churches to "equip, empower and protect the people."

Dandala, known for his work in conflict resolution at the height of the apartheid era in South Africa, is the immediate past Presiding Bishop of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa. He led a World Council of Churches "Living Letters" delegation to the United States in November 2001, meeting with delegates to the NCC's annual General Assembly among others to wrestle together with questions raised by the attacks of September 11, 2001.

October 6 in New York City, he met with staff of the National Council of Churches USA, Church World Service and the United Methodist Church after participating in a U.S. speaking tour and "teach-in" organized by Africa Action, the oldest Africa advocacy organization in the United States. Dandala also spoke at an October 5 breakfast forum at The Riverside Church in New York City and co-officiated at Holy Communion at morning worship there.

The All Africa Conference of churches (AACC), established in 1963, is a fellowship of 169 national denominations and 35 national Christian councils across the continent, comprising an estimated 120 million members.

The AACC's program seeks to equip the members for witness and service in such areas as Christian and family life education, theology, interfaith relations,

youth, women, development, refugee and emergency services, and information. Nov. 22-27 in Yaounde, Cameroon, members will gather for the AACC's 8th continent-wide assembly, under the theme "Come, Let Us Re-Build."

"Some of us are very passionate about what this network could do," Dandala commented to CWS and NCC staff. "We want to be sure the churches come together in a meaningful way."

That is easier said than done, he acknowledged. Travel and phone calls between countries can be difficult and expensive, letters can take up to a month to reach their destinations and Internet access is scarce. "interconnectivity, taking our future into our own hands, together, is key," he said.

In response, Church World Service is assisting the AACC with computer hardware, software and networking upgrades based on a needs assessment visit last year. The project is one of several collaborations between CWS – the global humanitarian agency of the NCC's 36 member churches – and the AACC, a longstanding partner.

This week CWS Executive Director John L. McCullough presented Dandala with a "down payment" of three new laptops as part of the broader package of assistance. Dandala responded, "your commitment to help us with these computers will help us strengthen our networks in a vast continent that doesn't

have much in the way of digital connections – but needs them more than ever before. Maybe CWS is just thinking that with computers our letters can be written more efficiently," he said. "For us they empower the church to speak with more authority to the things happening on the continent at this time."

African church life is a mixed picture, Dandala acknowledged. He expressed sadness and distress at churches that "take people's money and give nothing back." In the HIV/AIDS and other crises, some churches "are in the forefront of the struggle to care" but others are "making things difficult," teaching, for example, that AIDS is God's punishment of Africa.

Dandala said the AACC's mission includes bringing African church leaders together "to consider the kind of Christianity we need in Africa – ecumenical, socially sensitive, healing and transforming – the kind of salvation that has a direct positive impact on people's lives."

On the political front, Dandala called the establishment of the African Union of 2002 "something of a miracle at the moment." The AU's predecessor body, the Organization of African Unity, had as a cornerstone principle non-interference in other countries' affairs – predicated, ironically, on respect for boundaries that had been imposed by colonial powers.

That principle "has been the downfall of the continent since 1957, which has

seen the inability to do anything when evil takes place somewhere," Dandala said. "But now the AU agrees that we have a moral obligation when one of the leaders on the continent is destroying his or her country." For example, he said, it was "unthinkable a few years ago that heads of governments would intervene as they did in Liberia's civil war," convincing Charles Taylor to step down as President.

"We wish it could happen more," he said, expressing distress at watching Zimbabwe "destroy itself. It's a fact that land distribution in Africa is badly skewed against the poor, the ordinary people. We need to find a political solution that conveys that democratic values can be used meaningfully in resolving conflicts on the continent. Some of us as churches have said that to (Zimbabwe's President Robert) Mugabe."

Concluded Dandala. "Churches are like the veins and arteries in the body of Africa. Yes, we are the church in Africa, but we are not alone – we are part of the worldwide church. "Many world powers are interested in Africa not to build but to plunder, not to empower but to frustrate," he said. "We look to the churches worldwide and say the only bulwark that can protect us is the powerful collective voice of the churches to say, "Give the people a chance, and to walk with us."

"Walk With Us" African Ecumenical Leader Tells Churches

Submitted by Carol J. Smith,
Managing Editor

Katherine Parker, 25, of Ames, Iowa, is looking forward to networking with others who are organizing for change around faith issues. Grant McKinney, 21, of Alma, Mich., is seeking ministry that is "outside the box" and that reflects ecumenical compassion.

Katherine and Grant are two of 10 young adults from across the United States selected as stewards for the National Council of Churches' November 2003 General Assembly in Jackson, Miss., where they will "serve in the background and observe up close the deliberative work of ecumenism."

The annual meeting brings together some 250 delegates from the NCC's 36 Protestant, Orthodox and Anglican member denominations for business and fellowship, small-group discussion of current issues, daily worship and Bible study.

This year, delegates will elect new NCC officers for 2004-2007 and install them along with the Council's President

for 2004-2005 – the Rev. Dr. Thomas L. Hoyt, Bishop of the Fourth District of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, Shreveport, La.

Two of the stewards – Cyreeta Collins, 31, from Jamaica, NY and Adrian Evans, 30, of Mobile, Ala. – are "CME's". In her application, Ms. Evans expressed her delight at Bishop Hoyt's NCC presidency and said, "I intend to be in attendance regardless to celebrate this achievement with him, for our Church is extremely proud."

The Stewards Program, new this year, is the latest addition to a wider NCC program of support for young adult leadership in the ecumenical movement. The activities of the NCC's longstanding Ecumenical Young Adult Ministries Team include a biennial "Come to the Feast" conference, which draws 300-plus participants.

The NCC Constitution specifies that at least one in eight of each member denomination's delegates to the Assembly should be age 18 to 30. A Young Adult Caucus was formed at last year's Assembly. On November 3, a pre-

Assembly event will give young adults opportunity to participate in common prayer, ecumenical learning and visioning, and dialogue with leadership of the NCC and of Church World Service, the global humanitarian agency of the NCC's 36 member denominations.

The stewards' work – assisting with hospitality, registration, audio-visual and technology, communications, and General Assembly – will be complemented by their interactions with national church leaders and their experience of an Assembly's rich interdenominational and multicultural environment.

Evan Jones, 25, of San Antonio, Texas, is so eager to be part of an NCC General Assembly that he wrote in his application, "I would clean toilets if it meant that I got to listen and learn from this body. It would be an honor to be there."

The 10 stewards' expenses will be paid by special donations from three individuals, who designated their contributions in support of expanded opportuni-

WALK, Cont'd next page

“Stand Up or Sit Down”

By Dr. James W. Smith,
Chairperson
Legal/Constitution Committee



Dr. James W.
Smith

As a matter of fact, one would be looked upon strangely. Nowadays, when scrip-

ture is read, those who sit seem to be looked upon strangely. Oh, I am not for or against either one. Personally, I believe in the freedom to worship as one pleases. If you are led to stand, then stand. If you are led to sit, then sit. I had a member who suggested to me that our congregation consider standing when scripture is read. I told the member that I had no problem with it and the following Sunday, I stated that members should feel free to worship as he/she desires. If you wish to stand or sit when scripture is read, it is fine with me. I read the scripture and no one stood, including the person who made the suggestion.

Well, I am not raising this issue to be critical of standing or sitting when

scripture is read but to highlight something that I think is important. Think about this. A minister comes to your church and he is asked to read the scripture. He stands to read the scripture and says to your congregation, “Will you stand for the reading of God’s word.” “Will you stand in reverence to God’s word.” Well, your congregation is not used to standing for scripture so his/her members stand and your members stay seated. Or on the other hand, you attend another minister’s church and you are asked to read scripture and because your members are not accustomed to standing for the reading of scripture, you announce, “Will you remain seated for the hearing of God’s word.” In both of these instances, some members are standing and some are sitting. Now, it may not be anything wrong with that but it just doesn’t look good. I have heard both, those who stand and those who sit, quote scriptures in support of their position. Nehemiah 8:5 states, “And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people; (for he was above all the people)

and when he opened it, all the people stood up.” Matthew 26:55 states, “In that same hour said Jesus to the multitudes, Are ye come out as against a thief with swords and staves for to take me? I sat daily with you teaching in the temple, and ye laid no hold on me.”

In conclusion, to me it is not about standing or sitting for the reading of scripture. I did an exhaustive scripture search and saw the folk both standing and sitting. However, would not it be better if we ascertained from the Pastor what the custom of his church is before imposing our will on his congregation.

If I can be of service to you, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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WALK, Cont’d from page 23

ties for young adults to take leadership in ecumenical endeavors, said the Rev. Patrice L. Rosner, NCC Associate General Secretary for Education.

Their selection, from a pool of 20 applicants, was based on a detailed application. During the Assembly, each will interview Assembly participants with particular expertise – for example, interfaith relations or education ministries – and will write a 500-word essay on their experiences as a steward.

The stewards will spend November 2 – 7 in Jackson, Miss., for a schedule that includes orientation and debriefing, the Young Adult Pre-Assembly Event and the November 4 – 6 Assembly itself.

The stewards – all active in their own churches – hail from five denominations. They are:

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ): Emily Ruff of Central Christian Church, Virginia Beach, Va.

Christian Methodist Episcopal:

Cyreeta Collins of Tabernacle Community CME Church, Jamaica, NY, and Adrian Evans of Taylor Chapel CME Church, Mobile, Ala.

Roman Catholic: Maria Consuelo Garcia of St. Mary Magadalen Church, San Antonio, Texas. She learned of the Stewards’ Program through her part-time work at a United Methodist Church.

United Church of Christ: Stephanie Alyn Templin of Reading, PA, a member of St. John’s UCC in Gibraltar, PA.

United Methodist: Evan Jones of Travis Park UMC, San Antonio, Texas; Grant M. McKinney of the United Methodist Church of Cadillac, Alma, Mich.; Katherine Parker of Ames, Iowa, a member of Mt. Tamalpais UMC, Mill Valley, Calif.; Melissa Porter of Haygood UMC, Virginia Beach, VA, and Motoe Yamada of Buena Vista United Methodist Church, Berkeley, Calif.

The Ten Commandments, An Inside Look

By Rev. Chester Debnam, Jr.

The controversy surrounding the displaying of the Ten Commandments in government buildings keeps surfacing in the media.

Allow me to provide an inside look at the Biblical perspective of the law. Nature has placed the awareness of the law of God in every individual’s heart. Romans 2:14 reads, “For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves...” With this in mind, the judge in Alabama that wanted the monument to remain in the Judicial Building, perhaps understood that the commandments were the word of God, whether he believed in Jesus or not.

Many people may have overlooked the importance of the words that were spoken by God prior to giving the Ten Commandments: “I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt (sin), out of the house of bondage” (Exodus 20:2). The late Dr. James Z. Alexander interpreted this to mean, “You cannot separate the law from the lawgiver.”

Jesus indicated in Matthew 22:37-40, two commandments sum up all of the commandments of God by stating: “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor

as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.” The love that Christ is referring to in the Gospel of Matthew is agape love and He is the only dispenser of that love through His spirit. The monument of the Ten Commandments may be removed, but no one can remove from a believer’s heart their love for God and humankind.

Another controversy concerning the displaying of the Ten Commandments is the idea of separation of church and state. I hold that it cannot not be separated, for the word of God says, “God reigns over the nations; God sits on his holy throne” (Psalms 47:8, RSV). That is why there is a sense of a court of justice in all nations. The manifestation of God as a pillar of a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night led the children of Israel to Mt. Sinai where God gave them the law. That same God guides believers in our interactions with one another in righteousness.

In closing, the Apostle Paul summed it for me: “... and you show that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone, but on tablets of human hearts” (2 Corinthians 3:3). Although the laws may be physically removed, Jesus continues to write on the tablets of our hearts.

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SUPPORT YOUR OWN -- PLEASE!

Use Caution When Hiring Help for Hurt Homes

By Attorney General Roy Cooper

Your home was damaged by Hurricane Isabel and you want it fixed as soon as possible. But don't fork over your money to the first contractor who shows up on the scene. Most home improvement contractors are hard working and honest, but watch out for con artists who travel to areas that have been hit by hurricanes and other natural disasters to take advantage of consumers.

Even if you escaped the latest storm, choose carefully when selecting a contractor for repairs or remodeling work. Every year, my office gets complaints about contractors who do poor work, go over budget or never finish a job. We're also constantly on the lookout for rings of home repair fraud artists who travel the country attempting to sucker homeowners, especially senior citizens, into unnecessary and expensive repairs.

So whether you're looking for help with hurricane damage or need someone to perform regular maintenance and repairs, consider these tips before you hire anyone to work on your home:

Check with your insurance company first. If you plan to file an insurance

claim, talk to your insurer before you hire anyone to repair the damage. Some insurance companies require that you get an adjuster's approval before the work can begin. To help your claim, photograph and/or videotape the damage to your home as soon as possible.

Beware of fly-by-night contractors. In the hours and days after a disaster strikes, unscrupulous contractors may rush into an area that has been hit by a storm. Don't do business with strangers who knock on your door promising immediate home repair and clean up in exchange for up-front payment. All too often, these out-of-town contractors will overcharge you for shoddy work or take your money and run. **Shop around.** Don't rush into non-emergency repairs or hire the first contractor who comes to your home. Ask friends, neighbors and co-workers to recommend someone who has done work for them. Contact my office and the Better Business Bureau to learn about complaints against a contractor. When possible, get three written estimates for the work and compare bids.

Check credentials. Ask to see the contractor's insurance policy, especially for

roofing, painting or tree removal services. If the contractor is uninsured, you may be liable if an accident occurs on your property.

• **Do not pay for work up front.** A reasonable down payment may be required for some projects, but don't pay anything without getting a written contract first. You should be allowed to inspect the work and make sure you are satisfied before you pay. Avoid paying with cash. If possible, pay by check or credit card.

• **Say "no" to now or never offers.** Steer clear of any contractor who tries to rush you or says that a price is only good "now or never".

• **Get it in writing.** Insist on a written contract detailing all the work to be performed, its costs and a completion date. It should specify the quality of materials to be used, the total price for labor and materials, any warranties or guarantees, the starting and finishing

dates, and who will be responsible for clean-up and trash removal.

• **Keep a close eye on the work.**

Follow the progress of the project closely and bring problems to the attention of your contractor promptly and cordially. Keep careful records throughout the project.

• **Don't pay until you're satisfied.**

Do not make a final payment until you've inspected the work thoroughly and agree that it has been completed in accordance with your contract.

• **Call 1-877-5-NO-SCAM with**

questions or to report a scam. If you need to check on a particular contractor, want to file a complaint or think you've encountered a scam, let my Consumer Protection Division know about it.

Attorney General Roy Cooper and his staff want North Carolina homeowners to get their money's worth. We are here to be of service when you need us, but through consumer education efforts like these columns we hope to help consumers avoid problems from the start.

United States Postal Service

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This is an appeal to any members, former members, friends and/or acquaintances of the Mt. Zion First Baptist Church, Rocky Mount, NC.

We, the Archives and History Auxiliary, would like to obtain copies of photos of all former pastors of Mt. Zion in an effort to honor these men of God with a Pastoral Gallery. We would like to dedicate the Gallery during our church's anniversary in November.

Anyone who has photos of former pastors and is willing to share them, please contact the church office (252-442-1627) weekdays between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. We need photos of the following pastors: *1st pastor* - Cain Gibbs; *2nd* - Cain Barnes; *3rd* - George Norwood; *4th* - George Smith; *5th* - Simon Hicks; *6th* - Daniel Martin; *9th* - Nathaniel Marriot; *10th* - R.A. Morrissey; and *14th* - Rev. Hunter

Anyone who would like to send a copy of a photograph, please do so by mailing it to the above address, to the attention of Mrs. Nancy Gary Joyner, President of the Archives and History Auxiliary.

Thank You and God Bless!

Leading Brooklyn Minister Dies

It is with great sorrow that we announce the passing of Reverend Dr. O.B.J. Burson, 80, former President of the Baptist Ministers' Conference of Greater New York and vicinity, President Emeritus of the New England, former President of the Hampton Ministers' Conference, and served as Pastor of The Holy Trinity Baptist Church in Brooklyn, New York. Rev. Burson was in the New York State Supreme Court building on Tuesday when he collapsed.

Rev. Burson served the Inter-faith religious community, nationally, with distinction. His service included the Governing Committee of the Baptist World Alliance, the National Council of Churches, The Board of Directors of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc.,

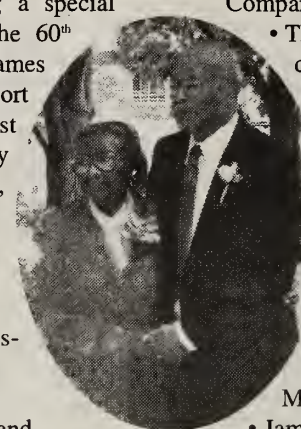
the nation's largest African American organization. He served as President of the New England Baptist Convention, the nation's oldest Black Baptist regional convention, President of the Hampton University Ministers' Conference and as President Baptist Minister's Conference of Greater New York and vicinity. His tenure with the Baptist Minister's Conference was filled with strong civic involvement including the largest clergy driven voter registration drives in the history of the city, intervention on behalf of the homeless, and supporting other prevailing social issues of the 1980's.

Rev. Burson will forever be remembered as being a revered member of the Baptist Community worldwide.

Congratulations! 60th Wedding Anniversary

Thank you for being a special guest as we celebrated the 60th wedding anniversary of James Lee Ebron and Louise Short Ebron, on Saturday, August 30, 2003 at St. Mary Missionary Baptist Church, Greenville, NC.

- James and Louise were married in Pitt County on Saturday, August 28, 1943.
- They are both life long residents of Greenville, North Carolina.
- James is 85 years of age and Louise is 81 years old.
- James retired in 1980 from Burroughs Wellcome.
- Louise retired from Imperial Tobacco



Company.

- They had seven children (one deceased), eight grandchildren (one deceased) and three great grandchildren. (Two of their children are foster children.)
- They are both active in their local churches. James is a deacon at St. Mary Missionary Baptist Church and Louise is a mother at St. Peter Missionary Baptist Church.
- James enjoys fishing.
- Louise enjoys baking.
- They both like gardening, going out to eat and visiting with friends, neighbors and church members.

Bible Study

By Dr. W. E. Martin, Past Moderator
Yadkin-Davie Baptist Association
and a volunteer worker of General
Baptist State Convention

An overview of I Thessalonians

The penman of this book was the Apostle Paul as he wrote by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. I Thessalonians 1:1 and II Timothy 3:16.

When you turn your attention to the place, you immediately are confronted with the city of Thessalonica and the church in Thessalonica. The city was founded by Cassandra who was King of Macedon. It was located approximately 100 miles west of Philippi. It was a great commercial center. The church in Thessalonica was founded by the Apostle Paul during his second missionary journey. Acts 17:1-9. Paul was only there for a short time because the unbelieving Jews had created a riot. Paul was deeply concerned for this young congregation.

As you view the presentation of this letter in accordance with other biblical enlightenment, you readily come to the conclusion that this young church was an ideal church. Perhaps, the prevailing admonitions concerning the second coming of Christ maintained the right focus. Each chapter embraces an admonition concerning this event. I Thessalonians 1:10, 2:19, 3:13, 4:16-17, and 5:23.

As we make an overview of this book, we will notice the predominate theme of each chapter. These themes will reflect the vital ingredients of an ideal church.

Chapter 1

Fulfilling their function

The enlightenment concerning their condition is seen in verse three. They were recipients of faith, love, and hope.

This was the result of their vital relationship and fellowship with the living Christ. They were not only recipients of these elements; they also reflected them in their behavior and bold declarations.

In verse seven you see the revelation of this fact in their behavior. In verse eight you see the manifestation of this in their bold declarations. The ideal church is one who is fulfilling their function by radiating Faith, Hope and Love.

Chapter 2

Feasting on the Food

The identification of the term food is the Word of God. This is spiritual food to the Christian and each local church. Notice I Peter 2:2. The insights on this segment are seen in verse 13. (1) They received the Word. This deals with the accumulation and assimilation of God's word. (2) They reflected that Word. This deals with the application of God's word. The word of God effectually worketh in those that really believe. The ideal church therefore is one that feasts upon the food, the Word of God.

Chapter 3

Forward with faith

Faith is a positive response to the faithful Lord and the faithful sayings of the Lord. Notice Hebrews 11:1,6 and Romans 10:17. Forward with faith embraces a commitment to comply with the words of our Lord.

The performance of their faith is seen in verses 5 - 8 of this third chapter. This is another ingredient of an ideal church.

Chapter 4

Focused on the future

This focus on the future embraced their walk. I Thessalonians 4:1. This focus also embraced the rapture. Notice I Thessalonians 4:13-18.

Our walk in the future should be

done in the light of the rapture truth. This focus will be a great determining factor and motivator in a person living correctly.

Chapter 5

Faithful to the finish

Verses 5-22 of this chapter, deals with various admonitions to remain faith-

ful to the finish. Verse 23 deals with our arrival.

All of the aforementioned ingredients are needed in a church for her to please the Lord and insure for herself the consummation of the bridal relationship.

Mud Creek Celebrates 135 Years

Submitted by Diatha Harris and
Catherine Whipple

The 135th Annual Session of the Mud Creek Missionary Baptist Association convened September 23 -28, 2003 at the H. B. Ferguson Assembly Hall, East Flat Rock, North Carolina. Mud Creek has 33 member churches in the Asheville/Buncombe, Henderson, McDowell, Polk, and Transylvania Counties in Western North Carolina. The Association has embarked on a capital improvement project to further develop the Association grounds at the East Flat Rock site. The Association's Choir had a pre-musical on Tuesday, September 23, 2003 featuring choirs and soloists from churches of the Association.

Spirit-filled worship services were held nightly. Reverend David Perry, newly installed pastor of St. John Baptist Church, Fletcher, NC proclaimed the Word of God on Wednesday evening. The Women's Home & Foreign Missionary Society was in charge of the Memorial Service held Thursday evening following the message by Reverend Roy J. Young, Pastor of St. Paul Baptist Church, Asheville, NC. The Fairmont Baptist Church Choir prepared our hearts for the Moderator's Hour. Reverend James E. Roberts, Pastor of Fairmont and Moderator of the Association

preached a soul-searching message entitled "Unfit For The Battle" (Deuteronomy 20:1-8).

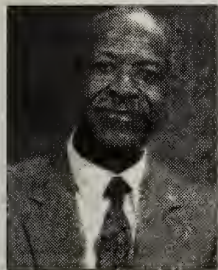
Dr. Charles R. Mosley, Pastor of Nazareth First Baptist, Asheville, NC led our Association through a spirited Minister's Conference with guest lecturer and facilitator, Dr. Reuben Green. His lecture was entitled "When We Know Better". Dr. Green resounded in his lecture that, "According to biblical quotation, worship is about as old as mankind itself. Worship is more than taking part in a religious service. Worship is an expression of reverence to an object of worship or divine being." (Genesis 4:26b.) Dr. Reuben H. Green is President of the Tennessee School of Religion in Memphis, Tennessee.

The 17th Annual Moderator's Banquet was held at the Chariot in Hendersonville, NC. Our guest speaker was Reverend Robert L. McGowens, Pastor of Galilee Baptist Church, Winston-Salem, NC and Chairman of the GBSC Evangelism Ministry. The closing of the 135th Annual Session was held on Sunday, September 28, 2003. Reverend Frederick L. Gordon, Immediate Past Moderator gave the charge to newly elected officers and prayed the installation prayer. Dr. Charles R. Mosely, Pastor of Nazareth First Baptist Church, Asheville, NC preached the closing sermon.

"Sexual Harassment: Is the Church Liable?"

Newsletter from the Law Office
Of James W. Swindell

Sexual harassment is unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, sexual relations under duress or undue influence, and any other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature which exceeds the bounds of human decency. Sexual harassment is a private wrong infringing the civil rights of individuals. The right to be left alone is a basic civil right. Sexual harassment is a tort. A tort is a wrong or injury done by one person to another in violation of a duty recognized by law. Sexual harassment is not confined to employment relationships.



James W. Swindell,
Attorney at Law

The law is not blind to human affections, attractions, frailties and rough edges consistent with ordinary human behavior. I am not aware of a case of legal liability where isolated instances of indiscretion such as asking for sexual favors or making the wrong assumptions about a hug, a touch, a feel or a kiss that was not available. However, when "No" has been communicated, a hint to the wise ought to be sufficient. Leave her alone or leave him alone.

If a church member is sexually harassed by a member, an officer or pastor of the church, is the church liable? It might be. The deep pocket is always plaintiff's first concern. Where is the money? It does a plaintiff no good to obtain a judgment if there is no money to pay it. In the world of litigation, with few exceptions, money is the only cure.

Our sexually harassed church member is entitled to be paid for her injury. The law requires the guilty of the illegal conduct to pay. To determine who is liable for payment of a judgment will depend in part on the legal structure of the religious institution. Generally speaking, churches are either congregational or hierarchical. Churches in the congregational structure are independent and responsible to no other religious body. The fellowship possesses total authority in all matters of doctrine and holds title to its own property. It is governed by majority rule except where its bylaws, constitution, or rules of order state differently. Churches in the hierarchical structure are connected with and subordinate to the doctrines, laws, procedures, bylaws and constitution of the general church.

There is no legal requirement that churches in either the congregational or hierarchical structure be incorporated. An

unincorporated church is classified in law as an association. In the absence of a written law by the state legislature, an association can neither sue nor be sued in its own name. This is because common law (judge made law) does not recognize an association as a legal entity. Under common law, an unincorporated association is regarded as a non-existent legal ghost no matter how powerful it may be in reality.

A lawsuit against an unincorporated association must be brought against the members of the association. Any legal action against a member of an association arising out of his membership in that association must be brought against the members of the association. An unincorporated church is an association. A lawsuit charging a member of an unincorporated church with sexual harassment arising out of his membership in the church must be brought against the members of the church. A judgment for the victim would be against the members of the church.

The law of general partnerships applies to members of an association. A judgment against a general partnership makes each partner jointly and severally liable to pay it. The assets of the partnership and those of the individual partners are available to satisfy the victim's judgment. In a general partnership, each partner acts as the agent of the other. The knowledge of one partner is imputed to the others by virtue of their membership in the partnership. Did the other partners (church members) know of the sexual harassment? People talk. Most likely our victim told more than one member, "He just won't leave me alone."

The incorporated church is a distinct legal entity and can sue or be sued in its own name. A corporation acts through its employees, agents and officers. A corporation is liable for their torts which are committed within the scope of their employment. This is known as the doctrine of respondeat superior.

A church is a volunteer based organization with only a few of its member-employees on the payroll. These persons are usually the pastor, the musician and the janitor. Monetary payment is not necessary to make one an employee. Members of the church who volunteer their time and services in furtherance of the mission of the church are employees of the church.

Would a church be liable for the sexual harassment of a member by a Sunday school teacher? The answer would most likely be no unless the victim could show that the teacher's acts were required or incident to his duties. In the alternative, she could prevail if she could show that the teacher's acts could have been reason-

ably foreseen by the church. She could also prevail upon a showing that the church ratified the teacher's acts by looking the other way after being shown what was going on.

Under what circumstances could a church be liable for the sexual harassment of a member by her pastor? Here, the victim may have three bites at the apple. She may prevail under the doctrines of respondeat superior, negligent retention or negligent hiring.

If our victim pursues her claim against the church under the doctrine of respondeat superior, she must prove that her pastor's conduct of sexual harassment was done in the course of his employment. A victim prevailed against her pastor and her church under the doctrine of respondeat superior upon presenting evidence that when she was 13 years old her pastor, counselor, teacher and surrogate father abused that relationship by manipulating her into having sexual relations with him resulting in physical and emotional distress. The court concluded that the pastor was acting within the scope of his employment because the sexual misconduct occurred substantially within the time and space limits authorized by the employment. Further, the victim, as a member of the church, was at least partially motivated by virtue of her membership in the church to follow the guidance of her pastor. Furthermore, the acts of counseling and providing pastoral care were those the employee (pastor) was hired to perform.

A church could also be held liable for the sexual misconduct of its pastor under the doctrine of negligent retention. If our victim of sexual harassment can prove that the pastor had engaged in sexual misconduct with other women in the church and that his conduct was known or should have been known by the church, the church may be liable. An employer who knows or should have known that an employee's conduct within the scope of his employment would expose others to an unreasonable risk of harm, may be directly liable to those persons for harm proximately caused by the employee's conduct.

A church could also be held liable for the sexual misconduct of its pastor under the doctrine of negligent hiring. How important is it to thoroughly check a prospective pastor's background? Being comfortable in knowing that he can preach may not be enough to warrant the call. Because the pulpit committees are not usually professionally trained investigators, hiring a private detective could be a good protective investment.

In a negligent hiring case, a married couple sued their pastor, their local church and the general conference alleg-

ing that the pastor forced his wife to engage in sexual relations with him while she and her husband were undergoing marital counseling by their pastor. The couple did not win their lawsuit because they did not allege specific facts indicating that the church knew or should have known of the pastor's criminal or tortuous propensities. If the couple had evidence that the pastor had engaged in sexual misconduct with a parishioner before, a negligent hiring case could have been made against the church. If the couple had known the real reason their pastor left his last pastorate, the results of the case could have been different. A wrongdoer is seldom caught the first time. A private investigator could have been a good investment for them.

Sexual misconduct of the clergy can be harmful to a lot of people. If a church is not incorporated, each member may be jointly and severally liable for paying a monetary judgment against their pastor. If the church is incorporated, the church's property could be sold and cash confiscated to satisfy a judgment against it. There may be no statutory maximum on the amount of money damages a sexual harassment victim can be awarded by a jury in state court.

A church in the hierarchical chain could expose all of the property of the religious institution to satisfying a judgment against a pastor for sexual misconduct. A hierarchical structured religious institution may be able to limit its exposure to liability by organizing its churches as subsidiary incorporated bodies.

A church has a business side that must be treated as business if progress for its members is part of its mission statement. Acquiring liability insurance to protect its property from pastoral sexual misconduct is a business matter that ought to be seriously considered. It is my sincere hope that this article will enlighten the hearts and minds of the brethren.

With best regards, I am
James W. Swindell

References: West's South Eastern Digest 2d (1999), American Jurisprudence 2d (2001), American Law Reports 5th (1992)

Bio-sketch:

James W. Swindell, Cornell Law School (1973); Colgate-Rochester Divinity School (1971); University of Maryland (1968); Pastoral Experience (1975-1985); Civil and Criminal Practice in state and federal courts since 1973; present legal practice focus is helping clients organize, protect and develop their businesses. His mailing address is 175 Northpoint Avenue, Suite 106, High Point, N.C. 27262, telephone (336) 869-2692 and fax (336) 869-4660.

By Reverend D. S. Briggs

Platform #1 - The Building

Growing up in New Jersey my mother would constantly chide me about "going out in public" as she called it with my play clothes on. This would cause constant tension in our house until I truly grasped the importance of her position. Since I was probably going to get dirty anyway, my play clothes were more comfortable than my other clothes, and I was going to either be walking or bicycling a few miles to my cousin's house I saw no problem with it. Other folks would have to understand and get over it was my militant reply. Yet she insisted over my strenuous teenage objections to "clean up and change" before I left the house and the confines of my yard. She made me take my play clothes in a small gym bag or even worse a backpack. These were both very unpopular and a sure sign of a "nerd" way back then but all the fashion statement now. Through the tears of my many protests that she wouldn't leave me be, she would say, "Boy, people are always going to judge you first by the way you look and next by the way you talk, so get used to it. If you don't look like nothing they don't want to hear a word you got to say. It may not be right or fair, but that is sure the way it is. If you look like something you at least have a half a chance. You don't know who is going to see you, or where you are going to have to stop off at. You will not leave this house looking like a ragamuffin because you never get a second chance to make a good impression."

You never get a second chance to make a good impression. That is the bridge we cross to the first platform of this area of focus. The first thing that a unbeliever sees when they come to your church is the building. Regardless to what they may have heard about the quality and preaching ability of your pastor; the singing, slamming choir that can make the most staid saint shout; or the ever relative and important "friendly factor" of a church's membership...it is the church building and grounds that make the first impression. The physical appearance of your church building and grounds has a lasting impact on everyone that passes by. Regardless of the size of a church, its outward appearance tells others that we care about our church. If the outward appearance of your church is shoddy, run down and tore up then unfortunately, the average believer will assume that what is on the inside has no value as well. At the very least they will be hesitant to investigate for themselves. Our stewardship in this area of focus must be drastically improved.

The grass should be cut and kept well maintained on a regular basis. Trees that are on the church property should be regularly inspected and dead branches

trimmed as needed. In the fall of the year leaves should be gathered and disposed of so that no one will slip on a wet leaf and injure themselves. The parking lot whether grass, gravel or paved should be kept free of debris. Special care should be had with dirt/grass parking

areas to make sure there is some type of parking pattern. There is a tendency on these types of parking areas to just park anywhere you can find a space. However in case of an emergency, others may not be able to get out or rescue personnel cannot get in. Even if the lot is not paved, there should still be some order.

The church's exterior should be clean. Fresh paint on the jambs, doorways, windows, and walls (if the church is not bricked). Cracks in the building's brick façade must be immediately investigated and fixed. The church must have some type of marquee or signage to identify the name and denomination (if any) of the church, worship and study times, pastor, and contact phone number. It can say "We're open for business" or "We don't care if you know we are here or not." The sign should be kept clear of obstructions, plants, and in ready view of those who would pass by. I have been to many churches that have no sign up so that the only ones who know what type of church it is, or if it is even a church, are those who already attend. Then they wonder why others won't just come by to visit.

The church should be well lit. Many fail to realize that a lack of adequate lighting while not only dangerous is an anesthetic to worship. Dim the lights and the eyes and ears will follow suit. Is the building up to current code regulations in its plumbing and electrical wiring? When many churches were originally built the codes were vastly different than they are now. The electrical wiring of yesterday that was sufficient to run a couple of light circuits and receptacles are not sufficient to run the modern appliances, organs, keyboards, computers we run in many of our churches today. Do we have handicapped accessible bathrooms for both males and females? Not only are we not up to code, in some cases we are breaking the law. All it would take is one or two members to truly get mad at somebody in your church and the next thing you know your church is in trouble for breaking the law. (A word of warning is in order here...please do not-

use the fact that your church is not up to code as reasons not to upgrade ministry...i.e., get computers, fax, etc. Just get the church up to code and upgrade ministry.)

By much slothfulness the building decayeth, and through idleness of the hands the House dropeth through
(Ecclesiastes 10:18).

Pews and carpet should be cleaned professionally at least once a year. Wood items polished.

Chrome, silver and gold shined. Walls painted and cleaned. Windows cleaned inside and out. Loose or broken ceiling tiles replaced. Leaks found and fixed fast. Areas needing maintenance should be reported and acted upon immediately. If we fix what we have and use what we have to its fullest potential, many churches could delay building projects for years. Unused space, rooms, closets, etc. must be put to good use. Ray Bowman in his book, *When Not to Build*, writes, "While fully using space may sometimes require remodeling, refurbishing, or making modest additions, in many cases it requires no money at all, only a willingness to do things differently." A maintenance request form, along with a maintenance action log provides a process of identifying these areas as well as repeated trouble spots, which may point to something more serious. Through this we can also prioritize our efforts based on vision, ministry needs and resources. This also provides a well-documented means of follow up not only for this generation but the next generation.

These areas while in most churches are often delegated to the Trustees of the church, is in reality the responsibility of the entire church. For too long we have passed the buck and the blame on others for not doing what we know in our hearts should be done. We do not need a position or a title to do the work, all we need is the health, strength and resources that the Lord has given us. The Bible says

"Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave where thou goest." (Ecclesiastes 9:10.) All of the auxiliaries, ministries, boards, and committees in our churches are empanelled and empowered to lead the entire church congregation in fulfilling their responsibility, not to do it all for them. There is simply no excuse for a church member to see a piece of paper on the floor and refuse to pick it up because that is not their job or they are not being paid for it. "To him who knoweth to good and doeth it not, to him it is sin." (James 4:17.)

Likewise trustees should not shut people out of helping because they are not trustees. When the Lord adds to the church, He adds what the church needs. Therefore many of our needs are already in the church or are on the way. We have to know how to identify and cultivate what God has given us. These people have talents and resources that can bless your church mightily if you prayerfully assess what they have to offer and implement their services under the direction of the Holy Spirit. In these tough economic times we have to maximize our volunteer efforts and include the entire church in our efforts. We simply cannot afford to pay everybody to do everything that we need to have done in order to keep all of our churches running and in good repair. Even those that we do pay have forsaken raises and bonuses to make it all come together. Every positive spirit we can engage in doing the work of the Master is a great thing! There are many men who feel uncomfortable with standing up and reading Scripture on Sunday, but they will cut grass all day long. Others have no problem serving as a security detail for the church. Still others will paint and do minor repair...all at little or no cost to the church.

Is it then right time for you to live in your luxurious homes, when the Temple lies in ruins? (Haggai 1:4 The Living Bible.)

If you desire to contact me, you may do so at (919) 688-3093 office, or e-mail me at stayblessed@consultant.com. ■

Ordination Service

Submitted by Janette Harvey
Correspondence Secretary, Roanoke Chapel Baptist Church

Roanoke Chapel Baptist Church, 1971 Roanoke Chapel Church Road, Littleton, NC will be having an Ordination Service for their Associate Minister, Minister Milton Solomon Jr., on November 2, 2003 at 4:00 p.m.

Rev. Quientrell Burrell, Pastor of 1st Baptist Church, Weldon, NC will be the guest speaker.

Rev. Danny Jones and the Twilight Baptist Church Mass Choir of Weldon, NC will render music for the occasion.

Our Pastor, Rev. Timothy Edwards of Roanoke Rapids, NC is the Moderator of the Reedy Creek Baptist Association. ■

The University of Diversity

By Rev. Sherman Shelton

Each Sunday they enter one by one and softly settle in their unreserved seats almost at the entrance about four pews away from the door which they had come. A mother brings her children. A father sits near the end of the pew. His face looks like a neighbor one would talk to across the fence under an autumnal sky in a backyard or in a busy aisle of a local grocery store. Silently, they move closer to each other filling up the sections of their very own village. A faint glitter of gold reflects from one earring to another. Do they understand the invocation, the morning hymns, and the congregational prayer? Do the scriptures reveal a word of comfort in the needy places of their lives? Is the preaching moment meaningful to their immediate concerns in a strange land? Is there a genuine sense of belonging in this gathering of the saints? Do they feel accepted far from their native homes?

From a distant land they have come to this house of worship—from Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Nigeria. For the past two years, one has wondered and pondered upon a singular reverberating question: How we get the West Africans to participate fully and faithfully in the body of Christ since they represent the broadest of the multicultural group in this writer's church?

Therefore, it is the clarion contention of this writer that the preaching moment as therapy meets the needs of the multicultural church. No longer are we to bask in the platitudes of complacency of mediated diatribes and say that "eleven o'clock is still the most segregated hour on Sunday morning in these United States". This topic is critically important to and for the church as it enters into the Millennial period of the Twenty First Century. In this new century, ethnic groups are vastly intersecting the conjunctions of the secular world of business, politics, education and a complex socio-cultural context. The dynamism of this intersection will require that all the races of humankind begin to establish stratagems for mutual and corporate coexistence, tolerance, and communal reciprocity.

Far from the strands of memory, efforts toward racial inclusion and sensitivity for the presence of multicultural congregants did not first begin with evangelicalism in Europe, Africa, and America. The biblical scriptures attests authoritatively that God's intention in creation was multicultural from the Genesis narrative to the apocalyptic discourse of the Book of Revelation.

Interestingly enough, the Book of Ruth reveals the crossings of the boundaries of race and religion to create a compassionate community of love witnessed

by God as Redeemer. Speaking to his hearers in Galatia, Paul voraciously embodied the vision of all humanity as one in Christ. He reminded that they were all baptized and "clothed" with Christ and one's collective equality in Christ is not contingent or predicated upon the artificial barriers of ethnicity, class, and gender.

Notwithstanding, the radical claims of an eschatological messianic prophet, Jesus, warranted the collective familiarity of the imagination to see the Kingdom of God through the lens of the innocence of children as an invitation to enter into the presence of cultural, gender, and racial acceptance during the first century. Jesus, in a very sense, was a cross-cultural ambassador of goodwill spreading the gospel of the university of diversity.

Hearing The Logos: The Preaching Moment

Dr. Samuel Proctor has challenged preachers to honor the integrity and the nobility of the preaching moment as a unfeigned opportunity to reach those who are challenged to hear the word of God:

The title *How Shall They Hear?* comes from Romans 10:14. It is intended to signify that the preacher has an implicit contract with those who hear. We have institutionalized the preaching moment at a set time. We are far removed from the circumstances of Jeremiah, John the Baptist, or Barnabas and Paul. We are licensed, ordained, set apart, salaried, insured, and certified. Yet, despite today's formal and external canons, our purpose and function remain distinctly the same: to declare the Good News of God with relevance and conviction. I grew to understand during those four novice years at Providence [Pine Street Baptist Church, Providence, Rhode Island] that there was no more important task to be performed in the world than that of attempting to lead persons into a knowledge and understanding of spiritual reality. The preacher's task under girds all other tasks in life, for without a binding or integrating religious perspective and conviction, all other aspects of life would be poor aligned. And with an incomplete, fragmented, or distorted view of reality, spiritual life could be spent in dead end pursuits, with a total waste of human capacity.

A Theology Of Preaching

Dr. Olin P. Moyd, pastor of the Mount Lebanon Baptist Church in the city of Baltimore, Maryland provides enormous insight and critical discernment toward and understanding of preaching and theology in his most celebrated scholarly work, *The Sacred Art: Preaching and Theology in the African American Tradition*:

Preaching's role in theology is similar

to that of a father teaching one of his children how to drive a car in and through an urban downtown setting. Pedestrians and traffic impinge upon the driver, but this is the only route available to reach the destination. Preaching has been the primary vehicle of theology in the African American churches.

Bridge Builders Focus Group

The researcher in this model of ministry has attempted to show that preaching as therapy meets the needs of the multicultural church. Multiculturalism in this writer's context has been defined as African Americans and West Africans.

To test the above hypothesis, the researcher designed and implemented a focus group model to engage and inform critical concerns relative to how the preaching moment tends to meet the needs of West Africans who worship in a predominantly African American religious context.

Moreover, the most obvious and clear points of tensions in this model of ministry were predicated upon the following core assessments:

1. West Africans had been coming every

Sunday to church faithfully yet their level of active participation in the life of the church was noticeably minimal. 2. West Africans were peculiarly silent and non-expressive during the praise and worship service prior to the preaching moment. 3. Only two West Africans were responsive to the preaching as indicated by their "amens". 4. Do the West Africans feel accepted in this new community of worship? 5. Are there common links of community that bridge their self-understanding of God's self-disclosure in the preaching moment to attend to their needs?

This model of ministry accomplished its goal: The preaching moment as therapy does meet the needs of the multicultural church. In this university of diversity, one Liberian woman said, "I felt like it was time to become a member. It is one thing to be on the outside looking in and another to be inside. Preaching helped me in this decision".

Samuel D. Proctor, *How Shall They Hear?": Effective Preaching For Vital Faith* (Valley Forge: Judson Press, 1992), 10-11.

GBSC UPCOMING SESSIONS 2003 - 2006

YEAR	CITY	HOST
MID-YEAR		
2004	Roxboro	Shady Hill
2005	Elizabeth City	St. Stephens
2006	Wilmington	Shiloh
2004 - July	All Baptist Assembly	Winston-Salem
ANNUAL		
2003	Charlotte	Ebenezer
2004	Salisbury	Mt. Zion Adjourn Session
2005	Asheville	Mt. Zion
2006	Raleigh	Martin Street
TRINITY SESSION		
2003	Charlotte	Second Calvary
2005	Fayetteville	Union Association
2006	Reidsville	Zion
EVANGELISM CONFERENCE		
2004	Greensboro	East White Oak
2005	Charlotte	Chappell Memorial
2006	Winston-Salem	Galilee Missionary

Jamaica Medical Mission Team

Pastor Jones, Rev. Toms, Dr. Davis, and Ms. Clay,

On behalf of the Jamaica medical team of Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, thank you for the opportunity to serve on the 2003 Jamaica Medical Mission Team. Our unit was able to service approximately 353 patients with us reaching an all time one day high of 123 patients on Wednesday. We again gave out a tremendous amount of medications and because of our advance notice and planning, we were able to give out glaucoma medications to last for 1 year and 6 months. Additionally, we were able to give away roughly 300 pair of UV protecting glasses for the sun and everyone seen received artificial tears. Services were provided by Dr. Paula Newsome (optometry) with support services provided by Dr. Sakesha Caston and Dawne Posey-Orr (optical services with the glasses).

We serviced more patients than the actual numbers reflected in that we gave medications to family members for parents and the like who were unable to come out to see us. We were actually much better organized than previous visits and had great support from the Jamaicans who assisted us in controlling the crowd. We saw a lot of end stage glaucoma meaning that at least 10 people that were seen this time were essentially blind. Educational materials about the devastation of glaucoma and the need for taking medications which we gave them was stressed and the impor-

tance of them taking their medications was stressed. A lot of the people said they could not afford the drops so that is why this trip was particularly satisfying because we were able to give out 16 – 24 bottles of antiglaucoma meds to last them until we return. Cataracts and pterygia were still very prevalent pointing out the need for more educational materials for our patients on the effects of excessive exposure to the sun (UV).

Dr. Newsome noted that logistically the weather was not as hot as in previous years. However, we still suggest that the church consider shipping some additional fans to Retreat prior to our arrival. There was also a problem with ants and other insects in our "sterile areas" which could be alleviated if as part of the prep work for the team, all areas are sprayed for insects a day or two prior to our arrival.

Thanks to Brother Holland and the church for its commitment to mission to the point of purchasing our own autorefractor which I know will get a lot of use.

As always, I want to commend my team and all the teams for providing care in a manner that was lovingly and giving and with the conditions, still managed a kind word, a smile and a hug. We truly know and understand that it is better to give than to receive. We pray that the persons served received as much as the team gave. Again, thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Submitted by Paula Newsome

Global Mission FMB Church

To: Global Mission Friendship Missionary Baptist Church

Enclosed are my thoughts and feedback on the Jamaica Medical Mission. I would first like to congratulate those who were part of the planning for doing an excellent job on the transportation. The flight arrangements were excellent as well as the ground transportation with Vinnie once we arrived. The housing accommodations were excellent and would recommend that we continue to keep housing in close proximity to the medical complex. Having the living quarters closer to the complex yields shorter transport time and easier access. I would definitely recommend hiring a driver to facilitate getting around as well as a local liaison for access to the local community.

I would also recommend that we access the local formulary and correlate our medical regimen to align with the currently existing structure. We can solicit new modern meds but use those

to complement the formulary currently in place. We can purchase those meds that are on their formulary from one of our local vendors at a much reduced cost. The mission would be much more effective if we are able to provide at least one month supply of those meds that they will need on a continuing basis such as hypertensive and diabetic meds. If we were to provide at least two practitioners we perhaps would have a lower physician to patient ratio so that we might be able to provide some educational teaching as well as mere distribution of medicines. We also discussed the concept of providing computers for the purpose of registration and logging patient care information for the purpose of continuity of care. Others returning to the mission would be able to review the previous practitioner's records and provide continuity of care.

Thank you,
Otis D. Speight, MD, MBA, CPE

Dental Team

February 28, 2003

To: Pastor Jones & The Global Mission Ministry

The Dental team comprised of Dr. Gwyn Davis and Janice G. Smith serviced 224 patients even without supplies on Monday. Janice the dental hygienist cleaned over 104 adults and children with heavy extensive calculus without the assistance of electronic scalers. In between extractions, I cleaned 24 children when the children came through the facility. In addition, Janice instructed many children and some adults on brushing and flossing. The patients in turn showed us their techniques for using the bark as a pick for cleaning. We were able to incorporate both techniques to better clean and preserve tooth structure.

Due to the use of sugar cane there was much decay present which resulted in the need to extract many teeth. There were times that patients requested teeth be removed just in case of decay or because of dark calculus, but


were sent to Janice for cleanings instead. In all there were 96 patients resulting in 115 extractions.

I did notice that even though Jamaicans eat raw sugar, they have great bone structure possibly because of the high intake of Vitamin C in fresh fruits. Even with badly decayed teeth, the teeth are solidly held in the bone unless mobile due to periodontal disease. Because we were able to obtain supplies from our dental representatives, we gave toothbrushes, floss, denture cream, and distributed pamphlets on dental care, children's dentition and dental health during pregnancy.

The hardest factor to overcome was the lack of sufficient lighting. We used daylight much of the time until the Board members delivered a lamp that Janice & I shared. We did not prepare with flashlights for Jamaica, but highly recommend having some sort of lighting packed with our supplies.

Thank you again for the opportunity to be a part of the Jamaica Mission.

Gwyn Davis, DMD



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Health Insurance (4)	\$168.43	\$2,021.16	Fortis Health
Retirement (5)*	\$250.00	\$3,000.00	North Carolina Mutual Life
	\$657.24	\$7,886.88	

The above figures are for a 35-year-old female, non-smoker.
*Represents the maximum allowed of \$3,000.

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by Rev. Augustus Ransom. Rev. Ransom has decided it's time to set the records straight throughout Western Society and the world in general concerning people of African ancestry and the Bible.

How To Build Without Borrowing

by Pastor Michael H. Baker. The success of any building program is to be submissive to the will of the Master Builder allowing Him to do the building. "Except the Lord build the house, They labor in vain that build it.

Terror & Triumph by Anthony B. Pinn

An extraordinarily interesting account of the ways in which slavery operated, mainly in the southern states, together with a very thought-provoking new analysis of the nature and role of black religion within and in response to slavery.

The Measure Of A Man by Martin Luther King, Jr.

Eloquent and passionate, reasoned and sensitive, this pair of meditations by the revered civil rights leader contains the theological roots of his political and social philosophy of nonviolence.

The Bible And African Americans

A Brief History by Vincent L. Wimbush. The Bible and African Americans describes through the five phases of African American readings how African Americans discovered new hope in this ancient text.

Strength To Love by Martin Luther King, Jr.

"If there is one book Martin Luther King, Jr. has written that people consistently tell me has changed their lives, it is *Strength to Love*."

Coretta Scott King

Fortress Introduction To Black Church History

by Anne H. Pinn & Anthony B. Pinn. Provides an overview of the history of three major historically black religious denominations: Baptist, Methodist, and Pentecostal. Introduces the beginnings of those denominations.

Witnessing & Testifying by Rosetta E. Ross

A book of importance about black women activists.



Race, Racism And The Biblical Narratives

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African American Biblical Interpretation edited by Cain Hope Felder. "A landmark volume of rigorous scholarship, laying out the issues in African American biblical hermeneutics clearly, cogently, and prophetically." Gale A. Yee

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Out of the depths of her heritage, Evelyn McLean vividly portrays how faith, the size of a mustard seed, was instilled in her and blossomed to sustain her through a battle with cancer.

The Woman At The Well by T.K. Jordan

TK Jordan tells her true story, married five times by the age of thirty-five. Yes, a modern day woman at the well! Searching yet never satisfied, trying to fill a void that only Jesus Christ could fill.

It's All About God by Dr. Debbie A. Strickling-Bullock

A book written specifically to help African American women of the baby boomer generation. This book shows that there is a Divine inworking and outworking in every situation we face.



★ BOOK OF THE MONTH ★

My Heart by Juanita Bynum, Ph.D.

This groundbreaking message will open your eyes to the truth about your own heart. Whether you are new to the faith or have been doing great things for God's kingdom for years, you still need a new heart.

Praise: An Antidote for the Antichrist

by George O. McCalep, Jr., Ph.D. Praising the Hell Out of Yourself™ is based on the theological truth that Christ indeed died for the pardon of sin but the presence of sin is still with us.

Edifying Expressions by Patricia W. Brower

Not only just what you might have wanted to say, but what we might find ourselves saying in the future. Brief and catchy poems are pithy and memorable, offering us inspiration and encouragement.

What Must I Do When There Are Offenses All Around?

by Kwame Frimpong. Countless Christians throughout the world are facing enormous offenses, hatred, disappointment, and variety of adverse circumstances in both their family and their church.

Out of Death Came Life by Barbara Monroe

A walk through Psalm 27. You experience the loss, the battle, the suffering, the delivery and the victory against satan.

J.J. JOHNSON BAPTIST ASSEMBLY INFORMATION

The Site:

The J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly is a tract of land comprising seventy-five (75) or more acres, much of which is covered with a mixture of North Carolina Pine, red and white oak trees. The location of the Baptist Assembly is on more than 75 rolling acres in Laurel Hill, North Carolina in Scotland County.

In 1967, approximately two-thirds of the acreage was donated by Dr. and Mrs. Joy J. Johnson and their daughter, Deborah (Mrs. Alexander Killiens). Additional acres were purchased by the Woman's Convention and General Baptist State Convention.

Our Purpose:

The purpose of the J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly in Laurel Hill is to provide a setting that is Christian in its atmosphere and is conducive to learning, worship, and meeting the needs of all individuals whom we serve. It seeks to provide opportunities for everyone to learn habits of good citizenship, and it provides at the same time opportunities to reach a maximum potential for Christian fellowship and fun experiences through democratic ideals and living.

The facility exists for the exclusive use by religious groups and/or organizations with similar aims regardless of ethnic origin.

Meeting Facilities:

At the J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly, there are various meeting facilities available. Listed below are the seating capacity (theater style) and lodging:

♦ Rowan Association Chapel	Seating Capacity: 300-400
♦ Horne Lodge	Seating Capacity: 20-25, Sleeps 12
♦ Alston Lodge	Seating Capacity: 100, Sleeps 64
♦ Lumber Bridge Association Lodge	Seating Capacity: 100, Sleeps 64
♦ Brown Assembly Dining Hall (Cafeteria Style)	Seating Capacity: 200

Individuals should bring their own linen, blankets, soap and other toiletries for the lodging facilities.

Current Annual Events

During the course of the year, the Conventional Family sponsors different ministries at the J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly. Among these are the following:

- ♦ Vacation Bible School (GBSC) – March
- ♦ Ministers' Wives Retreat (WBSC) – May
- ♦ Laymen's League Mini-Skills Retreat (GBSC) – May
- ♦ Leadership Training Conference (GBSC) – June
- ♦ Youth Bible Camp (WBSC) – June
- ♦ Laymen's League Boy's Summer Retreat (GBSC) – July
- ♦ Laymen's League Scouting Jamboree (GBSC) – August
- ♦ Laymen's League Men's Retreat (GBSC) – September
- ♦ North Carolina Branch of the 9th and 10th Calvary (Buffalo Soldiers) – October
- ♦ Usher's Retreat/Workshop (GBSC) – November
- ♦ Laymen's League Planning Session – December

The campus is available year round for meetings, weddings, banquets, family reunions, and other activities. Contact Rev. Eric Harris for the policies and procedures regarding each type of event.

*"And gathered them out of the lands, from the east,
and from the west, from the north, and from the south."
Psalm 107:3*

Send Applications & Funds to:
General Baptist State Convention
J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly
603 S. Wilmington Street
Raleigh, NC 27601

(Make checks payable to J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly)

Sources: "1974" Brochure and the J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly Guide And Handbook (1985).

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5. At the end of each session, a compiled typed copy, sent to the president one week after the session is closed.

The person must be committed to the above requirements.

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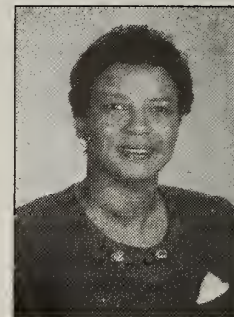
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Pastors

BELTON CREEK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH – Oxford, North Carolina is currently accepting resumes for the position of pastor. Belton Creek is affiliated with the United Shiloh Missionary Baptist Association. Interested persons should possess the following qualifications:
 Born again Christian
 Ordained pastor with pastoral experience
 Mature, sensible, well-balanced, and self-controlled
 Committed to Baptist Doctrines and policies
 Pastor should demonstrate the fruits of the spirits, Christ-like and devoted to God
 Willingness to work with all components of the church
 Good teacher, preacher, and counselor
 Good Reputation

Proven Christian service; not a novice or new convert
 Family person and manages household well
 Willingness to teach Sunday School
 Possess strong leadership skills and the ability to promote church programs

Please mail resumes and letters of reference(s) to:
Belton Creek Missionary Baptist Church
 P. O. Box 1164
 Oxford, North Carolina 27565
 Attn: Deacon William Cozart
 Chairman Pulpit Ministry

NAZARETH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH, Wagram, North Carolina – is currently accepting resumes for a Pastor.

Pastoral Qualifications and Duties:
 A Born-again Christian
 Licensed, ordained Baptist Minister
 Five years of pastoral experience preferred
 Serve as Senior Pastor
 College degree – Some theological/seminary courses completed and training ongoing
 Concerned with the spiritual and intellectual growth of the church
 Ability to preach and teach God's Word
 Must be willing to teach and follow the Baptist Doctrines, policies, and practices
 Ability to carry out administrative, leadership, and counseling duties
 Ability to work with all age groups in the

church
 Work cooperatively with church officials
 Family and community-oriented
 Teach Bible Study and attend Sunday School and prayer meetings
 Good communication skills
 Must be a good role model of moral and ethical conduct
All interested applicants should send a resume, personal references, and/or any other relevant information to:
Nazareth Missionary Baptist Church
 The Pulpit Committee
 Attn: Deacon Harold Pipkin
 Post Office Box 481
 Wagram, North Carolina 28396

MOUNT OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH, Albuquerque, New Mexico – The oldest Black Baptist church in New Mexico (an affiliate of The National Baptist Convention USA, Inc.) is currently seeking an experienced, born again, Bible believing ordained minister who is excellent with interpersonal relationships. All candidates must provide a proven record of active participation in their District Association, State and National Convention. A proven record of growth and development of ministries at your previous/present church is required. All educational and personal experience that is spiritually based will be considered. A strong belief in Baptist doctrine, i.e., "The Articles of Faith" and the two ordinances: "Baptism by Immersion" and "The Lord's Supper" is a must. All interested candidates should forward a resume to **Mt. Olive Baptist Church, Attn: Search Committee Chairman, 2401 University Blvd. SE, Albuquerque, NM 87106. (505) 242-8331 (voice mail) and (505) 242-6244 (fax).**

ZION GROVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH, Aulander, North Carolina, is seeking a Pastor. We are accepting resumes from interested ordained Missionary Baptist Ministers. Please forward your resume to **Deacon Haywood Harrell, Zion Grove Missionary Baptist Church, Post Office Box 611, Ahoskie,**

North Carolina 27910.

MALABY'S CROSSROADS MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH is now accepting resumes for a pastor. The ideal applicant must:

- be an ordained and licensed Missionary Baptist preacher,
- have an in-depth knowledge of and belief in Baptist doctrine,
- be led by the Holy Spirit,
- have at least 5 years experience as a minister (preferred),
- live a sincere Christian live,
- have strong, positive family values,
- be either currently enrolled in or have completed seminary training,
- have strong preaching and teaching ability,
- have a humble spirit, and
- attend all worship, Bible Study, and Sunday School sessions.

Interested applicants should mail packets containing resumes and the names and addresses of 3 references to the following address: **Malaby's Crossroads Missionary Baptist Church, c/o The Pulpit Committee, P. O. Box 648, Knightdale, NC 27545.**

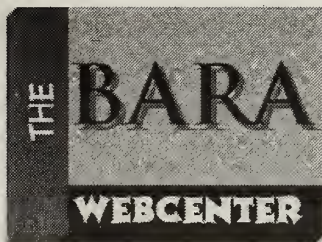
WHITE'S CHAPEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH - Speed, NC, is currently accepting applications for a pastor with strong Missionary Baptist roots. The church is affiliated with the Old Eastern Missionary Baptist Association and the General Baptist State Convention of N.C. Interested applicants should provide the following:

Resume (including pastor experiences and educational qualifications)

A copy of religious credentials (license/ordination)

At least two personal references (no family)

Send information to: **Deacon Joe W. Dickens, Jr., Chairman, Pastor Search Committee, White's Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, P. O. Box 296, Speed, NC 27881.**



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RISING STAR BAPTIST CHURCH, Walnut Cove, NC, is accepting applications for the position of pastor. Interested applicants should send resumes to the Pulpit Search Committee at P. O. Box 966, Walnut Cove, NC 27052.

LINCOLN HEIGHTS MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH - Cincinnati, Ohio, is seeking a full-time senior pastor. We are a suburban congregation of 1,500 members who attract a diverse membership from surrounding suburbs and the Greater Cincinnati area. We seek an experienced pastor who is committed to carrying out our mission of evangelizing, equipping and empowering through preaching, teaching and ministering to our congregation. Demonstrated visionary leadership, strong commitment to family care (including youth and senior ministries), community outreach and building strong ministries and leadership teams are desirable. Seminary degree or equivalent education is desirable, also.

If you feel God is leading you to this calling, please send inquiries or resumes to:

Pastoral Search Committee, c/o Ulysses Rhea, 9991 Wayne Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45215; phone (513) 722-5422; fax (513) 552-3652.

HAYNES GROVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH - Cliffside, NC is currently accepting applications for a pastor. Interested applicants should respond to: **Haynes Grove Missionary Baptist Church**
Attn: Deacon Eli Smith
Pulpit Committee
P.O. Box 651
Cliffside, N.C. 28024

CHAPEL HILL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH - Autryville, NC: seeks a pastor to serve as its spiritual leader, teacher, counselor, and administrator. Some requirements are as followed:

- Must be born-again as evidenced by character and dedication
- Licensed, ordained Baptist minister
- Ability to preach/teach and have administrative skills

- Five years of pastoral experience preferred
- Some theological courses completed, and continuing
- Knowledge of Baptist doctrine, policies and procedures
- A resume, letter of interest, including a vision statement of their ministry
- Legible copies of ministerial license and ordination certification
- References: Include name, address and phone number, (1) Family reference, (1) Business reference, (1) Professional reference and (2) references from pastors familiar with your character and ministry
- Other criteria will be discussed during interviews

Please mail any applications/resumes and/or related material to:

Chapel Hill Missionary Baptist Church
Attn: Deacon Bobby R. McAllister
1450 Sivertsen Road
PO Box 434
Autryville, NC 28318-8064
Ph: (910) 567-2961

POPLAR SPRINGS MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH of Roaring River, North Carolina is seeking a Pastor. We are accepting resumes from interested applicants. Qualifications:

- Must be a Born-Again Christian
- Licensed Ordained Minister, with certifications to prove it.

- Preferred Pastoral Experience
- Must be able to preach and teach, as well as communicate with all ages
- Strong leadership qualities.

Send resumes to:

Deacon Board
2265 White Plains Rd.
Roaring River, North Carolina
28669

MILL NECK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH - Como, NC: currently accepting applications for a Pastor with strong Missionary Baptist roots. We are affiliated with the West Roanoke Missionary Baptist Association and the General Baptist State convention. *Interested applicants should provide a resume to:* Carolyn M. Farrow, Secretary, Pastor Search Committee, Mill Neck Missionary Baptist Church, P.O. Box 68, Mill Neck Rd., Como, NC 27818.

BUNCOMBE BAPTIST CHURCH - Lexington, NC: accepting resumes from interested licensed ordained Missionary Baptist ministers.

Qualifications:

- Born again Christian
- Concerned with spiritual and intellectual growth of the church
- Ability to preach and teach God's Word
- Must be willing to teach and follow the Baptist Doctrines, policies and practices

Richard H. Moore
State Treasurer

Dr. Archie Logan, Jr.
Executive Secretary-Treasurer
General Baptist State Convention

Dear Pastor,

The General Baptist State Convention joins Richard H. Moore, State Treasurer, in encouraging your Association and church to identify your unclaimed property. As your State Treasurer and Executive Secretary of the General Baptist State Convention, the two of us serve important roles in North Carolina. It is for this reason we want to make you aware of a program that may benefit both your church and its members.

The North Carolina Department of State Treasurer is responsible for administering the "Escheat and Unclaimed Property Program". The purpose of this program is simple; when a company or financial institution is holding money that belongs to a North Carolina resident and that individual cannot be located, the company is required by law to turn the money over to the Department of State Treasurer, where it is held until the rightful owner claims it. This "unclaimed cash" is often the result of forgotten utility deposits, bank accounts, stocks that were purchased, and checks that have not been cashed. Currently, the North Carolina Department of State Treasurer is holding over \$350 million in unclaimed cash that belongs to 1.4 million people and organizations.

It is important that as much of this money as possible gets returned to the rightful owners. In order to do that, we need your help. We hope that you can assist us in getting the word out about this program by letting your church members know it is there and making them aware of how they can check to see if they may be owed money.

The easiest way to find out if your name is on the Unclaimed Property list is to log onto the North Carolina Department of State Treasurer website at www.treasurer.state.nc.us. You then click on the "Unclaimed Property Program" link to get to a page where you can type in your name. We suggest not only checking your name with the proper spelling, but try variations on the spelling of your name, as well. Sometimes the reason money does not get to an individual is because the company sending it has the wrong address or incorrect spelling of the person's name.

It is also important to know that claiming your money through the Department of State Treasurer is completely free. You should be aware that there are services that DO charge a fee to locate any unclaimed funds that may be owed to you. It is not necessary to use these services or to pay a fee to have your money returned. You can claim your money directly from the Department of State Treasurer at no cost.

We believe sharing information regarding the "Unclaimed Property Program" with your church members is a valuable service. Not only will this information help your members to claim any money that they may be owed, but it will also be helpful to your communities as the word travels to relatives, friends and neighbors of your members. We also suggest you check the name of your church to see if money is owed to it. There are thousands of businesses and organizations that have unclaimed cash, and your church may be one of them.

We appreciate your assistance in helping us to make the citizens of North Carolina aware of this program, and look forward to working with you to return as much money as possible to your church members. The General Baptist Foundation is also available to assist you in locating your money at no cost; simply call the Foundation toll free at 1-866-858-7847 or log on to the General Baptist State Convention's website at www.GBSC.org, then click on the [N.C. Department of State Treasurer](http://www.GBSC.org) link to access the "Unclaimed Property Program".

Sincerely,

Richard H. Moore
State Treasurer

Dr. Archie Logan, Jr.
Executive Secretary-Treasurer,
General Baptist State Convention

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To Minister, Trustee and Church Members,

Dear Christian Leader and Friends,

It is my hope that I will be a help to you in your next building project. Although you may not have a plan that exactly fits your needs, I may help you find a starting point to develop your own plan.

I have built and designed more than 45 churches in my 55 years of general contracting.

Church building should be compatible with their neighborhoods. The quality of construction, design, and landscaping should create a meaningful setting which is an inspiration to its members and the community.

When you consult with me, my first step is a detailed inquiry of the various programs at your church. This enables me to understand the main focus of your ministry and it helps you understand my services. Our first meeting is to get acquainted and find out your needs.

The second step is providing a master plan of your entire church property and renderings or models of the proposed buildings.

The third step is preparing your construction drawings which include:

1. Sound systems
2. Special lighting effects
3. Design plans
4. Structural design
5. Energy saving heating and cooling
6. Specifications (in laypersons language)

I have found that coordinating all of these design phases through one firm avoids costly delays, misunderstanding and mistakes during constructions.

There are many phases in church planning and design which require a specialist in that field. When you start your next building program, I hope you will give me a call.

At Your Service,
Thomas L. Jones

- Ability to work with all age groups in the church
- Ability to carry out administrative, leadership and counseling duties
- Work cooperatively with church officials
- Family and community oriented
- Teach Bible Study and attend Sunday School and prayer meetings
- Theological and/or Seminary training preferred
- Good communications skills
- Must be a good role model of moral and ethical conduct

Please send resumes and inquiries to: Buncombe Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1533, Lexington, NC 27293.

GUILDFIELD M.B. CHURCH – New Bern, NC: currently accepting applications for a Pastor. Guildfield M.B. Church is an established church with a rich heritage in Eastern North Carolina. It is a growing congregation with active ministries focusing on the youth, senior citizens, the musical department, and Christian Education activities. Regular worship services are held every Sunday morning at 11:00 a.m. The church has membership in the Old Eastern Missionary Baptist Association.

PASTORAL DUTIES

- Serve as Senior Pastor and preach the Gospel
- Provide insight for spiritual growth of the church and outreach efforts
- Plan and implement Christian education

opportunities for the membership

- Serve as an ex-officio member of all church auxiliaries
- Provide leadership to associate ministers affiliated with the church

QUALIFICATIONS

- Must be saved and have a personal relationship with the Lord
- Must be ordained to preach and be able to serve as an administrator of a local congregation
- Must possess interpersonal skills that facilitate interaction with church members and various community resources
- Must possess leadership abilities
- Must have personal stamina and enthusiasm to encourage the spiritual growth of the congregation
- Must have at least two years of experience in church leadership in some capacity and some Bible school training

Resumes will be accepted until the position is filled. To apply, send resume to the attention of Mrs. Vesta Mullins, Chairperson of the Pastoral Search Committee, at the church's address. For more information call Rev. Carolyn Squires, Committee Co-Chairperson at 252-638-4726.

836 Green Street
P.O. Box 12881
New Bern, NC 28560
252-633-2388

UNION GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH, Warrenton, NC: currently accepting appli-

cations for a Pastor. Interested applicants should provide the following:

A Resume
Send information to:
Brother Alonza Jones, Board Chairman
Pastor Search Committee
Route 2, Box 128
Norlina, NC 27563

EBENEZER BAPTIST CHURCH – Neburgh, NY: currently accepting applications for Senior Pastor with strong Baptist roots. The Committee will provide each candidate with an application packet.

Send request to:
Ebenezer Baptist Church
ATTN: Deacon Milton
Buxton/Confidential
PO Box 248
Newburgh, NY 12551-0248

SHADY GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH – East Spencer, NC: currently accepting applications for a Pastor with strong Missionary Baptist roots. Interested applicants should provide the following:

1. A resume
 2. at least four references: (2) business (2) personal
 3. A copy of religious credentials: License/Ordination
- Send information to:
Shady Grove Baptist Church
ATTN: Clarence A. Jones, Chairperson
PO Box 447
East Spencer, NC 28039

MOUNT CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH – Shelby, NC: currently accepting applications for a pastor with strong Missionary Baptist roots. The Church is affiliated with the Ebenezer Missionary

Baptist Association, and the General Baptist State Convention of N.C. Interested applicants should provide the following:

Resume (including pastor experiences and educational qualifications)
A copy of religious credentials (license/ordination)

At least three personal references (no family)

Send information to:
Pastor Search Committee
Mount Calvary Baptist Church
P.O. Box 3181
Shelby, N.C. 28151-3181

HOPPERS CHAPEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH – Shelby, NC: now accepting resumes for the position of pastor. Potential candidates must be a born again Christian with strong Baptist roots. Hoppers Chapel is a member of the Ebenezer Baptist Association. All applicants must possess the following qualifications.

- Must be ordained and licensed
- Must have at least 1 yr. Pastoral experience
- Must provide credentials of theological training
- Must be an effective teacher and counselor
- Must possess extensive knowledge of Baptist Doctrine
- Provide a mission statement for the church
- Live in close proximity to the church

The applicant must have the ability to plan and implement a growth strategy for both the spiritual and physical growth of the church.

Send all resumes to:
Hoppers Chapel Missionary Baptist Church
C/O Pulpit Committee
415 West Graham St.
Shelby, N.C. 28150

Sanford Ford Lincoln Mercury and Ford of Lillington Announce Giving Back to the Community Program

Sanford Ford Lincoln Mercury and Ford of Lillington combined have been serving our communities for over 40 years. Sanford Ford Lincoln Mercury and Ford of Lillington have teamed up to help those in pursuit of higher education at Shaw University. For every vehicle that is purchased by a member of the General Baptist State Convention these two dealerships will donate \$200 towards *Shaw University's scholarship fund*. When you visit these dealerships you will see that our professional and courteous staff will provide you with all the help you need to find the vehicle that you want. Our com-

fortable, non-confrontational environment allows our customers to feel right at home. Our prices are unbeatable set at only \$500.00 over cost. So come on out and see us at Sanford Ford Lincoln Mercury or Ford of Lillington and see why our slogan means so much to us. "We treat you like family." 1 Timothy 5:8 states "If anyone does not provide for his relatives and especially for his immediate family, He has denied that faith and is worse than an unbeliever."

Churches, pastors, officers and members of the GBSC, get your church vans and vehicles today and ask for Mr. Michael Kemp McCoy.

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MT. ARARAT BAPTIST CHURCH, INC., 2503 N. MYRTLE AVE., JACKSONVILLE, FLA. 32209

ATTN: SERMCO MINISTRIES, PASTOR D.A. LATTIMORE, JR.

904-354-7893 (CHURCH)

(FAX 904-354-5883)



BASIC REQUIREMENTS FOR SERVICE:

1. Born-again Christian, Spirit-filled, and divinely gifted in music ministry.
2. Willingness to spiritually align the music ministry with Pastoral vision.
3. Able to play the piano, keyboard and/or organ; able to read music and versatile.
4. Able to prepare choirs for Sunday morning worship services and other services.
5. Able to teach, as, well as direct choirs, with humility and love.
6. Able to rehearse with all choirs on schedule, and available for all Sunday services.
7. Able to accompany Pastor and choirs to other services as required (or ensure qualified substitute is available).
8. Able to select appropriate hymns and songs for worship.

NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH -

Gates, NC, is seeking a person to serve as Minister of Music.

Requirements:

- Able to play organ, piano or keyboard
- Able to play diverse music
- Able to accompany the pastor and choir to

church engagements if possible
Salary Negotiable. Inquiries may be made by calling (252) 357-1061 after 4:30 p.m.
Send resume to:

New Hope Baptist Church
Post Office Box 91
Gatesville, NC 27938
Attn: Church Secretary

MINISTER OF MUSIC, FULL-TIME. EBENEZER MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH, Wadesboro, NC

Born-again Christian, Spirit-filled
Ability to read music and versatile
Willingness to align the music ministry with Pastoral vision
Ability to prepare choirs for Sunday morning worship services and other services
Ability to teach, as well as direct choirs, with humility and love
Ability to accompany Pastor and choirs at various engagements
Other duties as outlined
Please send resume to:
Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church
c/o Dr. W. W. Williams
612 Salisbury Street
Wadesboro, NC 28170

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH -
RALEIGH, NC** is seeking a full time Minister of Music at it's location at 101 South Wilmington Street in Raleigh, NC. First Baptist Church is a historical black congregation organized at the North

Carolina State House (now the Capitol) in 1812. This historical congregation seeks an individual who is willing to grow with its Pastor, Dr. Dumas A. Harshaw, Jr. and his flock. This position requires a music and worship leader who is spiritual and experienced in providing the total awareness of the movement of God's spirit in the assembly of God's people.

Principal Function: The Minister of Music at First Baptist Church is responsible to the Pastor and is supervised by the Pastor for the development and promotion of the entire music program.

Duties and Responsibilities: The duties and responsibilities are as follows:

1. Direct Planning, organizing, conducting, and evaluating of a comprehensive music ministry.
2. Supervise the work of paid or volunteer music staff.
3. Cooperate with the church process to enlist and train leaders for the church music ministry, including choir workers, song leaders, and accompanists for the church worship experiences.
4. Lead in planning and promoting a choir program, direct and coordinate the work of choir directors.
5. Arrange and provide music for weddings, funerals, special projects, ministries, and other church-related activities upon request.
6. Plan, organize, and promote choir tours, mission trips, camps, festivals, workshops, clinics, and programs for the various choirs.
7. Develop and supervise a music library, and maintain materials, supplies, musical instruments and other equipment.

8. Keep informed on music methods, materials, promotion, and administration through continuing education and attending music workshops.

9. Prepare an annual music budget and manage the approved budget.

10. Assist the pastor in planning all services of worship, coordinate the music program with the church calendar and emphasize the church vision.

11. Lead in the development of a music academy.

12. Perform other duties as assigned by the pastor.

**ST. JAMES BAPTIST CHURCH -
Greensboro, NC:** Seeks Minister of Music with the following requirements:

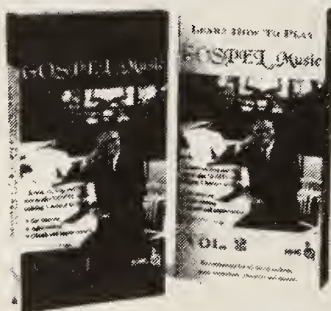
- Born-again Christian, Spirit-filled, divinely gifted in music ministry
- Willingness to spiritually align the music ministry with Pastoral vision
- Ability to play piano, keyboard and/or organ, ability to read music and versatile
- Ability to prepare choirs for Sunday morning worship service and other services
- Ability to teach, as well as direct choirs, with humility and love
- Ability to rehearse with all choirs on schedule, and available for all Sunday services.
- Ability to accompany Pastor and choirs to other services as required (or assure qualified substitute is available)
- Ability to select appropriate hymns and songs for worship
- Has the God given ability to work with diverse groups and personalities.

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PULPIT VACANCY

**NEW LIGHT MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
HALLSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA**

NEW LIGHT MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH IS NOW ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR A PASTOR. OUR WORSHIP SERVICES ARE EACH SUNDAY OF THE MONTH.

QUALIFICATIONS:

Must be a licensed ordained Missionary Baptist Minister.

- Full of Holy Ghost. Led by the Spirit of God in all matters.
- Full of wisdom, knowledge and understand the office of Pastor and performs it according to the scriptures and the needs of the church.
- Must be Association minded.
- Prefer having experience as a Pastor.
- The husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behavior.
- One that rules his own house, having a good report.
- Knows the doctrine of a Missionary Baptist Church
- Must attend meetings of different auxiliaries in the church to become familiar with the organizations, whenever possible.
- Must visit the sick and shut-in when possible.
- Must attempt to become involved with the various programs that the church participates in outside the home church calendar.

Send resumes and inquiries to:

Deacon Kenneth Bracey
1025 Red Bug Rd.
Hallsboro, North Carolina 28442
910-646-4467

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03. God Said It, I Believe And That Settles It / It All Adds Up
04. Burn Up Or Burn Out For God
05. Busted Britches From Straddling The Fence
06. Dangerous Minds
07. Don't Even Think About It
08. Fired Up By The Holy Ghost
09. Are You Full Of The Stuff
10. Let's Get On Board
11. God Picked Me To Be On His Side
12. Grace On The Race
13. Grow Up Or Blow Up
14. Hang In There
15. He Lifted Me Up Out Of The Miry Clay
16. Look Where The Lord Has Brought Me From
17. If My People
18. We Can Do It For A New Day Has Come
19. I Know What Prayer Can Do
20. Put Some Clothes On Child
21. A Right Thing In A Wrong Time
22. The Man Who Had Everything But The Right Thing
23. Soap For The Soul
24. Stay On The Lord's Side
25. If You Take One Step He'll Take Two
26. Stepping In Your Own Mess
27. I Can't Lose With The Stuff I Use
28. You Can't Touch This
29. Warm In A Cold Situation
30. That's The Way He Died But That's Not The End Of The Story
31. What You See Is What You Get
32. What's Faith Got To Do With It
33. You Can't Make It Without God
34. I Just Want To Say... "Thank You Lord"
35. A Heart Like Thine
36. Just A Closer Walk With Thee
37. Give Me A Clean Heart So I Can Serve You
38. What Ever The Problem God Has The Answer
39. Peace – In The Midst Of My Storm
40. I Am On The Right Road, Now!
41. A Good Man In A Bad Situation
42. Good Medicine For A Bad Ailment
43. Stand Up And Testify
44. Bad Boys! What You're Going To Do When He Comes For You
45. Angels Just Keep Watching Over Me
46. Go Ahead! Make My Day
47. A Trip To The Cross
48. Jesus! Jesus! Jesus! He Is Somebody's Preacher
49. On The Day Of Pentecost
50. Jesus Is All That! And A Whole Lot More
51. Muddy Putty In The Potter's Hands
52. When Stress Controls You Jesus Consoles You
53. Black Men And Women, Young And Old, Changing A Generation
54. I Am Black But I Am Somebody
55. Staying Afloat In A Sinking Boat
56. He That Has A Friend Must Show Himself Friendly
57. Victory Is Mine
58. Occupy Till I Come
59. A Man On A Mission / The Borrowed Ax
60. Busy In God's Business
61. That's Just Like Mama
62. He's Alive And I Am Glad About It
63. What The World Needs Now Is Love Sweet Love
64. I Moved From My Old House And My Old Friends
65. I Just Want To Know Why
66. What Do You Do When Life Is Not Fair
67. Why Do Bad Things Happen To Good People
68. What Do You Do When Your Brook Runs Dry
69. Diagnosis From Dr. Jesus, Go And See The Dr.
70. Who Is This Man
71. What Would Jesus Do
72. If I Could But Touch The Hem Of His Garment
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74. Wounded By The Ones You Love
75. How To Stand In The Storms Of Life
76. Don't Quit
77. Speak To Me Lord Jesus
78. Get Behind Me Satan
79. Good Things Happen When Jesus Shows Up
80. Where Are You? Adam
81. Committed Because I Am Submitted
82. Are You A Disciplined Disciple
83. Answering God's Call
84. Too Blessed To Be Stressed
85. Thrilled By His Will
86. These Things Only Come By Prayer And Fasting
87. Just Like Daddy
88. I Got Two Wings And The World Can't Do Me No Harm
89. The Prayer Of Jabez
90. I Will Meet You On The Other Side
91. Can't Come Right Now, I Am On Duty
92. What A Mighty God We Serve
93. When Life Makes You Wonder
94. Fighting The Good Fight

To order sermons: Make check payable to: Ricky Eason, 139 Sawyer Rd., Roebuck, SC 29376 Also For Preaching Appointments (864) 576-4961

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3. 10 Sermons in each notebook – Mix or makeup your own notebook – By Mail! Add \$3.50 Postage And Handling. Money Order – Two-three day delivery. Checks Accepted! *Design your own notebook of sermons at the same great price. Have it your way!
4. Order sermons by e-mail: ricky139@bellsouth.net

- Preferably a degree in music
- Must be trustworthy, punctual, and fair in all of service to the congregation

Duties include: Be prepared for worship service and rehearsals; Be on time for worship service and rehearsals; Make sure instruments are in good condition at all times for performances; Have immediate access to "Baptist Hymnals" at all times; Be receptive to spontaneous input of members; Have cordial spirit in presenting rehearsal strategy; Be flexible in presentation; Be mindful of time; Adjust accordingly; Try to be available for engagements representing St. James outreach ministry; Implement new strategies and methods gradual, so growth can be achieved. All applicants send resume to:

St. James Baptist Church
Attention Rev. King
and Music Committee
536 West Florida Street
Greensboro, NC 27406

MINISTER OF MUSIC WANTED SPRINGFIELD BAPTIST CHURCH – Stanley, NC:

- A Spirit-filled leader – skilled in the Word
 - Child of God
 - Faithful and committed to God's program
 - The gift to play by ear with or without the accompaniment of other musicians
 - Has the ability to read and teach music
 - Plays versatile music – which includes hymns, spirituals, contemporary gospel and praise songs
 - Available to accompany the pastor and choirs to other churches when and as needed
 - Available for all rehearsals and Sunday Worship service
- Please contact: Melissa Fanning – (H) 704-563-3230 or Pastor Theodore Armstrong – Church 704-263-4426

MINISTER OF MUSIC NEEDED – Wake Forest, NC: congregation seeks musician. 1) The duties include working directly with the Pastor in order to assist and cooperate with him in Christian Worship, 2.) Playing during Sunday morning worship service, 3). Rehearsing with various choirs one night per week, 4.) And accompanying the Pastor on engagements to other churches. Please forward a cover letter and resume to:
Evans Grove Missionary Baptist Church
12700 Creedmoor Road
Highway 50
Wake Forest, NC 27587
(919) 870-8874

MINISTER OF MUSIC VACANCY: THE SPRING GREEN MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH – Warrenton, NC: seeks a Minister of Music to provide musical direction and accompaniment for 4 choirs in the church. This person will work closely with the Pastor to provide spiritual leadership in the ministry of Jesus Christ through music, i.e. hymns, spiritual songs, and praise and worship music that glorifies God.

We are accepting resumes from candidates with the appropriate qualifications. (Specific qualifications listed in beginning of staff musician section.) For additional information please send inquiry or resume to:
Spring Green Missionary Baptist Church
PO Box 924, Warrenton, NC 2589
Rev. Dennis G. Lindsay, Pastor

CHURCH MUSICIAN VACANCY: FIRST MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH – Selma, NC: seeks musician for youth choir. Must be a Christian with good character.

Requirements:

- Play the organ and piano
 - Able to play sacred and gospel music
 - Read music and have the ability to play by ear
- Send resume to:
Reverend S. Manfred Isom, Pastor
415 Star Ruby Drive
Knightdale, NC 27545

MINISTER OF MUSIC NEEDED: THE PENN AVENUE MOUNT OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH – Lewiston, NC: seeking a musician for a station church, a Christian, who is responsible, has good character and a good reputation.

Requirements:

- *Plays the organ and piano
 - *Able to work with a diverse group of singers
 - *Experienced in all sacred music
 - *Reads music and is versatile in playing by ear
- Send resumes or responses to:
Mount Olive Baptist Church
PO Box 214
Lewiston-Woodville, NC 27849
Attention: William W. Peele, Jr.

MINISTER OF MUSIC WANTED: THE PENN AVENUE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH – Oxford, NC: currently seeking a Minister of Music.

QUALIFICATIONS:

(Specific qualifications listed in beginning of staff musician section.)
*Will be responsible with the pastor's approval in hiring other musicians if deemed necessary. Salary: Negotiable
Sunday worship services. Service begins each Sunday at 11 a.m. with the exception of 5th Sunday services which begin at 10 a.m. Please send resume to the above listed address or inquiries may be made by calling one of the above listed numbers.

CHURCH MUSICIAN NEEDED – Warren County, NC: Knowledge of music and the ability to play by ear is appreciated. Presently, morning worship service is held every fourth (4th) Sunday, but we are considering an additional Sunday for services. Must be able to play for youth choir and adult choir. Church is located in Warren County, North Carolina. For further information, please call:
(252) 257-0221

CLASSIFIEDS

CHURCH MUSICIAN: THE CEDAR GROVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH – Gibson, NC: seeking a person to serve as Church Musician. Qualifications: (Specific qualifications listed in beginning of staff musician section.) Salary negotiable. Please send resume to Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Church at this address. Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Church 14600 Railroad St. Gibson, NC 28343

CHURCH MUSICIAN: THE FRIENDSHIP MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH – High Point, NC: accepting resumes for a Church Musician. Qualifications: (Specific qualifications listed in beginning of staff musician section.) Salary negotiable. 715 West Willis Ave. High Point, NC 27260

JEFFRIES CROSS BAPTIST CHURCH – Burlington, NC:

Send cover letter and resume to Jeffries Cross Baptist Church, 2015 Jeffries Cross Rd., Burlington, NC 27217. Phone: 336-226-9626. We are currently seeking a musician who will work directly with the pastor to provide spiritual leadership in the music ministry. Qualifications: 1. A Christian with piano, keyboard, organ ability; read music, play chords, teach harmony, direct choirs,

conduct two rehearsals per month with four choirs, accompany pastor on engagements, accommodate traditional and contemporary worship styles.

CHURCH MUSICIAN - Hope Mills, NC: Swans Creek Missionary Baptist Church, North Carolina. Qualifications:

- *A Spirit-filled leader - devinely gifted in music ministry
 - *Willingness to align the music ministry with Pastoral vision
 - *Able to play piano, keyboard; able to read music and play by ear
 - *Able to prepare choirs for morning worship service and other services
 - *Able to rehearse with all choirs on a regular basis and available for all Sunday services
 - *Accompany Pastor and choirs to other services
- Please contact or send resume to: 2404 Swans Creek Church Rd., Hope Mills, NC 28348 (910)323-4595

MINISTER OF MUSIC NEEDED - Henderson, NC: congregation seeking a full-time minister of music, who will be responsible for directing, managing, and developing all functions and aspects associated with planning and implementing a comprehensive Church Music Ministry. Must be available for all worship services and practices.

Send resumes or responses to:

St. James MBC, P.O. Box 2205, Henderson, NC 27536. Attention: William H. Clayton, II Senior Pastor.



Administrative

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR NEW HOPE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH, Charlotte, NC – is seeking a Church Administrator who is a spirit-filled leader to assist the Pastor administratively. Coordinates church administration and the business affairs of the church to meet the needs of a diverse and growing church membership.

Serves as liaison for the pastor to church staff, organizations, auxiliaries, committees and ministries.

Responsible for the planning, designing and implementing of procedures, programs, activities, and special events as directed by the Pastor.

Previous supervisory experience or related management skills. Ability to utilize excellent written and oral communication skills. Ability to delegate, motivate, train and incorporate the many talents and skills of God's people.

Assist the Pastor in the evaluating of organ-

izations, auxiliaries and ministries of the church to ensure continuous improvement toward meeting our mission statement. Familiar with various software programs designed for church administration use. Proficient in the use of Microsoft Office Products such as Word, PowerPoint, Excel. Must have 3 – 5 years experience in church administration. Dedication to excellence and service with church related work, while maintaining the highest level of professionalism.

Please send resume to:

Mr. Chris Wright, 7111 Ludwig Drive Charlotte, NC 28215, 704) 532-1243



For Sale

CHURCH PEWS FOR SALE. Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church, Barbee Rd., Morrisville, NC has church pews for sale. There are fifteen (15) 8-ft. pews and twenty-seven (27) 6-ft. pews. All inquiries should be directed to Rev. McArthur Pettiford at (336) 570-9111, Trustee Herbert Barbee at (919) 469-3174 / (919) 274-6696 or Trustee Anthony Holland at (919) 474-3186 / (919) 454-6378.

The Nehemiah Prayer Chain

of the
**Woman's Baptist Home &
Foreign Missionary Convention**
North Carolina, Auxiliary to GBSC



Enlistment Form

The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord; but the prayer of the upright is his delight. (Proverbs 15:8)

Confess your faults to one another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. (James 5:16)

Name _____
(Organization or Individual)

Mailing Address _____

Telephone Number _____

E-Mail _____

District _____ Group _____

Department _____
(Senior, Young, Adult, or Youth)

Chairperson - Mr. Robbie Diggs Co-Chairperson - Mrs. Colene Stanley

(Please return to the Office within seven (7) days)
Woman's State Baptist Convention

GBSC Is Available To Work With Churches

By Dr. Archie D. Logan Jr.

Greetings! The General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina is available to work with your church during the time you do not have a Pastor. We will work with the Deacons and other officers to provide guidance as you search for a new pastor to lead your church.

Some of the things we offer:

- We have ordained Baptist ministers available to assist the Deacons in carrying out the Church Ordinances: Lord Supper and Baptism.
- We have ordained clergy who can serve as an "Interim Minister" in your church.
- Some suggested workshops:

- ✓ How To Select An Interim Pastor?
- ✓ How To Call A Pastor?
- ✓ How Much Should We Pay Our Pastor?
- ✓ Church Administration
- ✓ How To Plan A Church Budget
- ✓ Effective Bible Study
- ✓ Evangelism Classes
- ✓ Special Training For Deacons/Trustees
- ✓ Christian Education Planning
- ✓ Church Development

Please call if you are interested in any of these services!

1-800-639-GBSC (4272)

"From Bondage To Abundance!"

By Archie D. Logan, Jr., Executive Secretary-Treasurer

The General Baptist Foundation offers every Pastor and his or her local church a "Covenant of Care Plan". This plan can be individually customized to meet every budget. It contains insurance for life, short and long term disability, and long-term care. Take a look at the example below and

then call the Foundation to get your plan started today. contact the Foundation toll-free at 1 (866) 687-4631 or 1-866-OURGOD1 and ask for a representative to explain the details.

Call the GBF, Inc., for more information on this and other programs that will help your congregation and pastor.

Benefit	Monthly Contribution	Annual Contribution	Covenant Partners
Short Term Disability (1)	\$24.76	\$297.12	Unum Provident Insurance
Long Term Disability (2)	\$21.18	\$254.16	Unum Provident Insurance
Life Insurance (3)	\$52.39	\$628.68	Unum Provident Insurance
Dependent Life (4)	\$4.00	\$48.00	Unum Provident Insurance
Long Term Care (5)	\$60.17	\$722.04	Unum Provident Insurance
Total	\$197.50*	\$2,370.00	

*\$35 monthly administrative fee included in pricing.

- (1) 7-day elimination period for sickness or accident. Benefit Period 12 weeks up to a maximum of 60%/\$1000 weekly
- (2) 90-day elimination period for sickness or accident. Benefit period to age 65 up to a maximum of 60%/\$3000 monthly.
- (3) \$50,000 guaranteed renewable term-life policy. Coverage is reduced to \$32,500 at age 65 and then, \$25,000 at age 70+.
- (4) \$25,000 guaranteed renewable term life policy for spouse. Coverage is reduced to \$16,250 at age 65 and then, \$12,500 at age 70+. ** Children: Live Birth to 6 months = \$1,000, 6 months to 19 years (26-yrs. If full-time student) = \$2,000
- (5) 3-year benefit period, \$2,000 facility/\$1,000 in home care, indemnity policy, \$72,000 maximum, can get extra coverage if needed.

ATTENTION: Pastors, Trustees, and Financial Committees

Mr. Dexter Perry and his staff have finance, loan, annuity and long-range planning programs that help build the stewardship foundations for your church. Also ask them about the

General Baptist Annuity Gift Program we are doing through North Carolina Mutual Insurance Company. One telephone call will make a blessed difference in your church Ministry. ■

If You Begin At Age	Monthly Pretax Deposits	At Age 65 You will Have Deposited	At Age 65 Your 403(b) Balance Will B
25	\$25.00	\$12,000.00	\$49,787.27
	\$50.00	\$24,000.00	\$99,574.54
	\$100.00	\$48,000.00	\$199,149.07
35	\$25.00	\$9,000.00	\$25,112.88
	\$50.00	\$18,000.00	\$50,225.75
	\$100.00	\$36,000.00	\$100,451.50
	\$200.00	\$72,000.00	\$200,903.01
45	\$50.00	\$12,000.00	\$23,102.04
	\$100.00	\$24,000.00	\$46,204.09
	\$200.00	\$48,000.00	\$92,408.18
	\$300.00	\$72,000.00	\$138,612.27
55	\$50.00	\$6,000.00	\$8,193.97
	\$100.00	\$12,000.00	\$16,387.93
	\$200.00	\$24,000.00	\$32,775.87
	\$300.00	\$36,000.00	\$49,163.80
	\$400.00	\$48,000.00	\$65,551.74

*Assumes an 6% rate of return annually plus reinvestment of all dividends and interest earned.

Taxes will be owed once 403(b) distributions begin, however most individuals assume they will be in a more favorable tax bracket at retirement or able to take advantage of a special tax treatment associated with 403(b) plans called a five-year forward averaging. Professional tax counsel is advisable to determine if special tax treatment for lump sum distributions is available.

The General Baptist Foundation offers each affiliated church, bookkeeping services to small (0 to 150 members) and medium size churches (150 to 300 members). This assistance includes the following:

Description	# Of Checks Written	GBSC Member Cost	Non-GBSC Member Cost	
Bank Statement Reconciliation	30 or less each month	\$10.00 per week	\$15.00 per week	General Ledger
Financial Statement Preparation	Quarterly	No Charge (1)	No Charge (1)	Income and Expense Reports Only*
Accounting Software Installation on local church computer		\$249.00	\$349.00	Includes 1-Hour Of Training (2)

Balance Sheet Preparation Cost Is Determined On A Case-By-Case Basis.

- (1) Included in the cost of the Bank Statement Reconciliation Service.
- (2) No cost for mileage up to a 30-mile radius from Cary, NC. Cost after the 30-mile radius is calculated and \$1.00 per mile round trip.

If your church would like assistance in this matter, please contact the Foundation toll-free at 1(866) 687-4631 or 1-866-OURGOD1 and ask for a representative to explain the details.



"From Bondage To Abundance!"

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Church Name _____

Pastor _____

Church Address _____

Birh Date ____ / ____ / ____ Gender: ☐ M ☐ F Salary \$ _____

Home Phone: () _____ Church Phone () _____

Email Address _____ Cell Phone _____

If you are intersted in any other type of coverage, please select below:

☐ Health Insurance ☐ Life Insurance ☐ Long Term Care Insurance ☐ Retirement

BAPTIST INFORMER:

EXPLORING THE WONDERS OF GOD'S GRACE

A Song for Thanksgiving

Have you ever considered how depressed, despondent, and disconsolate our lives would be if we could not listen, reminisce or sing a song during trying times in our lives? Personally, I do not want to think what my life would be like without the gratification that my mind and my emotions receive from the sweet melodies of a song.

I am quite sure there are, but I would have difficulty identifying something that can capture and express how we feel, interject feelings into our hearts and thoughts into our minds more effectively than a song. There is just something about a song that can take control of the essence of our being and cause us to release unrehearsed emotions and behavior unimaginable to us. Whether it is a show, reunion or even church, the atmosphere can be described as dead, but someone can come along and sing the right song and totally change the atmosphere at that gathering. I have officiated funerals where the mourning was intensively high. Nonetheless, someone came along and rendered one of those great hymns of the church that spoke to the

hope of the Christian faith, and the mourning that seemingly had beset the congregation was turned into joyful hallelujahs.

Of course, it is not just simply a song that affects the atmosphere of an event. The song chosen must match the occasion if certain feelings, certain emotions are to be generated within a specific atmosphere. Singing, "Who let the dogs out", at a wedding will not create the expected atmosphere for a wedding.

The Christmas season is approaching fast. Can you imagine Christmas without hearing and singing those songs that we have heard and sung down through years during the Christmas Holiday Season? I cannot imagine Christmas without singing those songs that remind me of the good tidings of great joy that the angels announced to the shepherds on that one holy night, as the stars were bright and shining, when the savior of the world was born.

However, very seldom do I hear people speaking often about a song for Thanksgiving. Ideas for dinner are constantly shared for Thanksgiving. But what about a song that can be shared with our families that will remind us as to why we should be so thankful and how we

should express our thankfulness unto God during the Thanksgiving Holiday Season? May I suggest we consider the 100th Psalm as a song to sing for Thanksgiving.

The 100th Psalm falls under the category of Psalms for Thanksgiving that was written to reflect on the experience of someone who had been in a bad predicament and had no means of escape, but God came along and provided their deliverance. Please read the 100th Psalm and hopefully you will agree with me that the 100th Psalm is a great song for Thanksgiving for the following reasons. First, the 100th Psalm brings to our attention the right attitude for worship. Second, the 100th Psalm helps us to keep the right and proper perspective on whom the Lord is and who we are. Finally, the 100th Psalm reminds us that God's attributes are unequal and unable to be duplicated.

Consider the 100th Psalm as a good song to sing for Thanksgiving. For the 100th Psalm declares that the Lord is good, His mercy is everlasting, and His truth endures to all generations (Psalm 100:5).

- Editor

BAPTIST INFORMER

603 S. Wilmington Street
Raleigh, NC 27601
USPS 042-680

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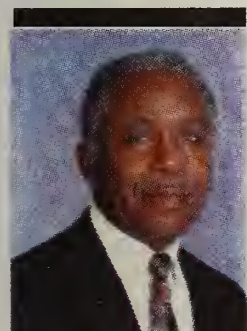
BAPTIST INFORMER

Volume 126, No. 12

Publication of the General Baptist State Convention of N.C., Inc.
Voice of 500,000 North Carolina Baptists

December 2003

By Dr. Charles Bullock
President GBSC



Dr. Charles
Bullock

We praise God and thank you for a successful 136th Annual Session of our Convention in Charlotte with the Ebenezer Baptist Church family. Dr. Leonzo Lynch, Pastor, and Ebenezer did a stellar job as our host. We are most grateful. We continue

to move forward to ensure that the Convention remains a vital force for mission ministry on the local, state, national and international levels. We have challenges, but the Convention is safe, sound and steady. With God's blessings and your sincere prayers and generous support, we are confident that our Convention will continue to be a great Convention, giving witness in "Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and even to the uttermost part of the earth".

Convention Headquarters

The Convention is moving forward with a Management Team in place. Mr. Thomas E. Spivey, CPA, Chairman of the Budget Committee, Dr. Dumas Harshaw, Chairman of the Management Committee, Reverend Paul L. Anderson, Chairman of the Personnel Committee, and I are working diligently with our office staff to ensure sound operation.

The Convention is safe, sound and steady

Support Requested

We are currently in need of your sincere prayers and financial support. Our goal is to see that designated gifts are forwarded to the intended objectives/organizations. Additionally, we seek your generous funds for State Missions now in order that we may reduce our indebtedness and provide for daily operations.

Teaching Program

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing

the Word of truth."

We are pleased that many of you have been directly involved in the teaching program of our Convention during the various sessions. We continue to evaluate all phases of our ministry. If there are areas that you wish us to consider for inclusion, please share these with us in writing.

We commend the Zion Baptist Association members for their participation and completion of a comprehensive discipleship program where approximately 95 persons received certificates.

Lott Carey Program

We are pleased that some of our Convention constituents are working with the Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Convention and participating in short term foreign mission ventures in our various foreign mission sites. Lott Carey has received a grant for short term mission projects. We encourage others to contact Dr. David E. Goatley, Lott Carey's Executive Director, directly for information, if you are interested. Through Lott Carey, we currently have mission stations in Liberia, Nigeria, Uganda, Kenya, South Africa, Mozambique, Guyana, India and Jamaica.

GBSC Housing Banquet

We are pleased that this year's Housing Banquet will feature Reverend Jesse L. Jackson. The banquet will be held at the Raleigh Convention and Conference Center December 5, 2003.

Martin Luther King Banquet

Please plan to join us for the 2004 Martin Luther King, Jr. Banquet to be held at the Raleigh Convention and Conference Center, Friday, January 9, 2004.

Executive Committee Meeting

The Executive Committee will meet Friday, December 5, 2003, at the Sheraton Hotel, Raleigh at 10:00 a.m. We plan to have our audit report at this meeting.

*May God grant each
of you a Blessed
Christmas!*

Gifts of Life For Christmas



Yes, It's that time of year again. 2003 is almost over and we're heading into one of our most celebrated holidays, Christmas. Family, friends, loved ones and acquaintances along with great food and fellowship come to mind when we think of Christmas. Oh yeah, don't leave out the gifts.

Indeed this time of year has also been ordained as the "giving time of the year". Truly we have all given of ourselves and our resources throughout the year, but Christmas is a special time and season of giving. We give to show our appreciation and love for our family and friends. We give special gifts that will hopefully be remembered for years to come.

With this in mind, we want to offer a couple of gift suggestions for this holiday season, the first one being life insurance. Life insurance, mislabeled "death insurance", has great benefits before and after death. N. C. Mutual Platinum Plus policies accumulate a significant amount of cash value during the life of the policy. With a loan provision, cash can be gotten from the policy and used for short-term financial needs. With a guaranteed interest rate, your accumulation values will continue to increase every year, minus any loans taken

Not only does a N. C. Mutual Platinum Plus policy provide cash accumulation and loan provisions, but these policies also provide family members with peace of mind knowing that in the event of premature death, all financial responsibilities will be handled with dignity and without turmoil. Policies taken out on small children provide families with a single economic tool that can cover several bases. First of all, the policy insures that at premature death, burial and other expenses will be covered completely. Secondly the same policy can provide college funds through loans as mentioned above. The possibilities are unlimited.

Alongside of the N. C. Mutual Life Insurance Policies are N. C. Mutual Annuities. Not only do N. C. Mutual Annuities pay more interest than bank Certificates of Deposit, but they can also provide you with a lifetime of income. Think of that, an income for life. It's like having your own personal pension plan. In economic times like these, let's make our gifts count. Give the gift of life.

Call The General Baptist Foundation today toll-free at 1-866-687-4631 and utilize this "Season of Giving" as an opportunity to make a lasting, positive economic impact on your family and friends.



Our 136th Year • 1867 - 2003

The First Christmas: A Special Gift and Occasion for the Forgotten

Dr. Terry Thomas,
Editor

It is with great joy during this holiday season, as Editor of the Baptist



Dr. Terry
Thomas

Informer, for me to extend well wishes and season greetings to the family of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and to those beyond the boundaries of our convention who share an interest in the work that we do. I pray that during this holiday season the joy of Christmas will ring resoundingly through each of our lives and that the joy of the spirit of Christmas be experienced through our lives by someone who needs to be reassured of their self-worth and significance. As a child, I looked eagerly during this holiday season with great anticipation for the gifts that I would receive and the food my beloved mother would cook, especially her sweet potato pies. However, now, during this holiday season, I look forward to giving gifts to those who I do not know personally and sharing gifts with the wonderful family in which I have been blessed of God.

Perhaps many of us have already pulled together or we are in the process of pulling together our list of people who will receive from us a token of good will. May I urge, as we celebrate this Christmas season, that we take a second thought about those who are going to be recipients of our good will. In the December 2003 issue of Ebony Magazine, Bishop John R. Bryant shared his view on the spirit of Christmas. Bishop Bryant advised in his sharing that "this year we should return to the original meaning of Christmas and see this as a time when we look at what we have received from God - the gift of a Savior who is Jesus Christ, the gift of family life, the gift of loved ones, the gift of health and strength." I agree with Bishop Bryant. However I want to suggest, in addition to what Bishop Bryant advised, that we also focus on the original group of people who were given the privilege of enjoying the first Christmas. I offer this suggestion for the purpose of helping us to obtain, perhaps, a broader view of the various people we should seek to be recipients of our good will.

I believe, one of the joys of the Christmas celebration is centered around the lives of the people that we search out to share our good will and tidings of

great joy. There is a need, I must say, to obtain some clarity on whom those people should be. Normally, the focus is our immediate family, and this is appropriate. But in addition to our family, who should be recipients of our good will and tidings of great joy? The answer I ascertain can be gathered by examining the initial group of people who were given the privilege of celebrating the first Christmas. To gather this understanding it will require a brief look into the story of shepherds told in Luke 2:8-15.

As we know, in the traditional-nativity scene, there is the presence of the three wise men and shepherds at the place where Jesus was born. Contrary to that scene, the

night Jesus was born the wise men were not there. A study of the biblical account of that event reveals that at least one to two years had passed before the wise men had an opportunity to see the baby Jesus. According to Luke 2:8-15, the only persons to share in the first Christmas celebration, the night that Jesus was born, along with Mary and Joseph, were some shepherds. To me this is so amazing, of all the people that God could have chosen to be a part of the first Christmas celebration, the great-religious leaders of their time, the crafty-political leaders of their time, the renowned philosophers of their time, the outstanding intellectuals of their time, the extremely wealthy people of their time, God chose a group of shepherds who were spending their night in the field watching over their flock.

Reexamine closely Luke 2:8-15 and you will have to conclude that it was not by chance nor through a random selection that the shepherds were chosen to be the only ones to be a part of the first Christmas celebration. From Luke 2:8-15, it appears that a special-personalized invitation was extended to those shepherds, and only to them, to share in the first Christmas with Mary, Joseph and the person for whom the first Christmas celebration was celebrated, the person who would be the Savior of the world. The following excerpts from Luke 2:8-15 support my assertion. Luke 2:9b says, "and the glory of the Lord shone around them." Luke 2:10b states, "Fear not: for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy." Luke 2:11 reads, "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which Christ the Lord." Luke 2:12a says, "And this shall be a sign unto you." And Luke 2:15b records the shep-

herds saying among themselves, "Let us now go even unto Bethlehem." It would be hard to argue that the shepherds were not selected and the only ones given the privilege of being a part of the first Christmas celebration.

However, our concern is why the shepherds were chosen to participate in the first Christmas celebration. I would argue that the society's perspective on shepherds of that day and time was the reason why the shepherds were chosen to share in the first Christmas. The shepherds represent the forgotten of every society. William Barclay says in his

commentary on the Gospel of Luke, "Shepherds were despised by the orthodox good people of the day. They were quite unable to keep the

details of the ceremonial law; they could not observe all the meticulous hand-washing and rules and regulations. Their flocks made far too constant demands on them; and so the orthodox looked down on them."

The Pulpit Commentary states that "among the Jews at that period shepherds were held in low estimation among the people. In the Talmud we read that they were not allowed in the courts as witnesses."

God with loving concern chose the shepherds. A group of people who had been forgotten by society, put down by society and cut out of society, to share the first Christmas with them. Seemingly, God is always searching to bring great joy to those who have been forgotten by society. I can only imagine the joy and a renowned sense of self-worth that first Christmas experience brought to those shepherds, the forgotten of society. That joy had to have been overwhelming because a host of angels joined the shepherds in celebrating the

good news.

There is no doubt in my mind that shepherds were selected to serve as a representation of the people on whom we must shine the brightness of God's glory, share good tidings of great joy, and give something that is specially unique for them during this holiday season. The forgotten are often those who society views as of little or no value to society. Like the shepherds, they are out somewhere alone and kept out of many enjoyable, special and significant events in society. The elderly in our rest homes, the homeless, those who lack certain educational experiences, those with deep economic struggles, those who struggle with substance abuse, and those with AIDS are often the forgotten in our society. But to truly enjoy the spirit of Christmas we must reach out and share the good news in word and deed with those who are the forgotten of our society.

Those shepherds upon seeing the new born Savior of the world lying in a manger did not go back to their flock that night. But rather they went and made it known abroad the saying that had been told to them concerning the child. The forgotten of society became carriers of good news to society. Oh how sharing good tidings of great joy with those who are viewed as the forgotten in our society can be the beginning of their transformation of becoming prominent bearers of good news through words and deeds to our society. I know this is true, for once I was one of the forgotten of society, but the Savior of the world reached out to me. May the peace and the gift of God's salvation be the source of your joy during this holiday season.

¹William Barclay, *The Gospel of Luke* (Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1975), 22.²H.D. M. Spence and Joseph S. Exell, ed. *The Pulpit Commentary Volume 16 Mark 7 Luke* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1983), 38.

"And this shall
be a sign
unto you."



THE BAPTIST INFORMER

Publication of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc.
Voice of 500,000 Baptists

(USPS 042-680)

Dr. Archie D. Logan Jr., Executive Editor

Dr. Priscilla A. Brodie, Executive Editor

Dr. Terry Thomas, Editor

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THEME: "By the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness..." (II Corinthians 6:7)

The Board of Directors As Fiduciaries

By Dr. John H. Grant,
Vice President At Large

As chairman of the Convention's General Board, my monthly articles in our *Baptist Informer* provide the opportunity to regularly challenge fellow-board members regarding our individual and collective fiduciary responsibilities. A



Dr. John H. Grant

"fiduciary" is a person responsible for, and entrusted with the management of assets belonging to others. Governing boards of non-profit organizations are generally considered under state laws to be acting as fiduciaries. Every non-profit organization must have a governing board, even if there is no staff. The board is the responsible and liable party for the organization.

In the Constitution of the General

Baptist State Convention, the "General Board" is the Convention's board of directors. The General Board consists of more than one hundred members and has three basic responsibilities: Elect an Executive Committee and supervise the work of the same. Do the work of the Convention during the interim of Convention sessions. Report annually to the Convention on its work during the interim. As the Convention's board of directors, the General Board, not the Executive Committee, is entrusted with the management of, and responsibility for, assets belonging to the constituency of the Convention. That constituency is the members, officers, and pastors of the churches across this state that comprise the membership of this Convention. Without them and their support, there would be no General Baptist State Convention.

The General Board is the responsible and liable party for our Convention and most of all for our Lord. As fiduciaries, let us manage the assets of the churches and conduct the work of this Convention with honor, integrity, openness, and accountability. ■

Second Vice-President

By Rev. Nilous M. Avery, II - M. Div.
2nd Vice-President

To the holy and faithful sisters and brothers in Christ of the General Baptist State Convention family: Grace and



Rev. Nilous Avery, II

peace to you from God our head-lifter, soul-keeper, peace-provider, and eternal refuge. I thank God because I have "heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all the saints..."

(Colossians 1:4,

NIV). I thank God because in the midst of a world that often encourages and embraces a "look out for #1" attitude, the body of Christ continues to serve as a model of true stewardship.

Christian stewardship is based upon the principle that God is the owner and we are managers of God's creation. There is no need to minimize this foundation. The psalmist clearly states: "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it..." (Psalm 24:1). The body of Jesus Christ was founded upon the principle of loving and giving. God so loved the world that He gave His only son to the world and for the world.

Christian living is based upon loving and giving. One Old Testament prophet suggested that the failure to give a certain percentage of one's possessions for God's work is thievery and robbery - stealing from God what rightfully belongs to God (Malachi 3:8-10). Jesus Christ taught His followers to give, promising them rich spiritual blessings in return (Luke 6:38). The apostle Paul implored Christians to give to God's work, not reluctantly or under compulsion (a grudging spirit), but with a cheerful and grateful heart (2 Corinthians 9:7).

Most individuals, particularly Christians, must be challenged to

be/become better stewards (managers) of all that God has enabled them to possess. Can others see in us the desire and motivation to serve as the very presence of Christ here on earth? In other words:

- Our confession must be matched by our character;
- Our profession must be matched by our performance;
- Our shouting must be matched by our sharing;
- Our church service must be matched by our community service;
- Our worship must be matched by our work and witness;
- Our living must be matched by our giving;
- Our forgiveness from God must be matched by our forgiveness of others;
- Our upreach must be matched by our outreach;
- Our claim of inner grace must be matched by our outward show of goodness toward others;
- Our blessings from God must be matched by our blessings shared with others!

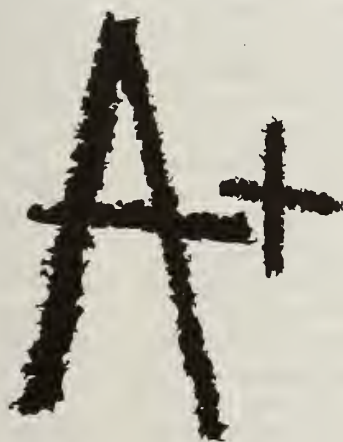
Jesus drew a picture that we must never turn away from. He spoke of those who need to experience the helping and healing hands of Christian stewards who are committed to the cause of Christ (Matthew 24:35-36). I am confident that the General Baptist family is a collection of individuals, churches, and associations who are faithful stewards that shine as lights to help others catch glimpses of God's truth and love in action.

Shine today by becoming a faithful steward of foreign missions through the Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Convention and other objectives of our Convention. Please make the commitment today to become a beacon of light in the work of God through the General Baptist State Convention.

Contact: Reverend Nilous M. Avery, II, (704) 637-0954 (c); (704) 637-1137 (fax) or: averyrevkin@aol.com

"To the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen."
(Romans 16:27, NIV).

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The 119th Annual Session of the WBH&FM Convention of NC

By Ms. Jean Floyd, PR Chairperson

Missionaries of both long-time and first time attending gathered from all directions across the state for 119th session of the Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention which convened at Benton Convention Center in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, July 28-31, 2003.

Youth, Young Adults, and Seniors gathered desiring to gain new insights, to share God's blessings, to give thanksgiving, and to render praises to Christ, the Savior. Registration and meetings of the Executive Committee and Executive Board were held on Monday during morning and afternoon sessions. On Monday evening the Johnnie Blunt McLester Pre-Convention Banquet was held with President Julius McDonald presiding. Bringing the address was Dr. Ross Cooper, President of National Baptist Convention USA, Inc., Women's Auxiliary.

The official opening of the session began on Tuesday morning with the call to order by President Julius McDonald and the leadership processional composed of district chairperson, county union, and auxiliary presidents. Music was provided by the convention choir. Devotion was led by Mrs. Cleo Bowden with scripture and prayer by Mrs. Elizabeth Marrow and Mrs. Mabel Hester, respectively. Sharing the theme discussion was Mrs. Clara Motley, who invited attendees to "serve the present age" by using the talents and gifts God has given and take Christ's message to the family. The family can be transformed through studying the Word, praying, and being obedient to God's will. A change in attitude and guidance of the Holy Spirit are necessary if a transformation is to take place.

Reverend Nilous Avery, II, host pastor, brought greetings, followed by presentation of the executive reports by Ms. Darlene Esters and conventional directions by Dr. Priscilla A. Brodie. Committee reports included Committee-on-Committees by Mrs. E. B. Penny; Public Relations/Publicity by Ms. Jean Lloyd; Worship and Praise by Mrs. Cleo Bowden; Christian Family Life Ministries by Ms. Darlene Esters; and Christian Education/Curriculum by Mrs. Brenda Jones. President McDonald recognized attending pastors; state auxiliary presidents; past state presidents; presidents of local circles, union, district chairpersons; and visitors. Dr. Archie Logan, Jr., GBSC Executive Secretary-Treasurer and Mrs. Helen Thompson of the GBSC Ushers' Convention brought greetings. Mrs. Thompson invited attendees to the Ushers' Retreat to be held on November 7, 2003 at the J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly.

Presentation of speaker was by the Reverend Dr. Haywood Gray. Reverend F. O. Bass of Mt. Vernon Baptist Church, High Point, brought the sermon. His scriptural text was centered in Ephesians 4:11-12, Matthew 27:37-40 and John 14:15, using the theme "Where Are the Trainers?" He shared that training must precede successful results. Athletes train in preparation of a successful season, and animals are trained to do performances. Consequently, this Christian walk requires training. The absence of training has resulted in an increased prison population of African American population; in voting on the Ten Commandments rather than keeping

them; and individuals walking in the world rather than walking with Christ.

Theme: **"Serving the Present Age: Transforming the Family Through Christian Values/Ethics"**

He concluded by sharing that there are three things that training will do: (1) Direct you; (2) Involve discipline; (3) Develop you.

Tuesday afternoon session opened with President

McDonald presiding and Mrs. Evelyn McLean in charge of the Deacons' Wives Fellowship Program. Mrs. Margie Clark gave theme discussion. Remarks were shared by Mr. Michael Alston of the Central Children's Home and by Dr. Clarence Newsome of Shaw University/Shaw Divinity School. Mrs. Mary Swann led the Memorial Service. Mrs. Carolyn Edwards chaired the Ministers' Wives Fellowship Program. A skit entitled "A Woman God Can Use" was narrated by Mrs. Lena Johnson. Mrs. Bronnie Daniels, First Vice President, presided during the evening session. Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Salisbury, hosted the Welcome Program. Reverend Leonzo Lynch, Pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church, Charlotte, NC delivered the sermon. His subject was "How to Overcome Baptist Politics".

With Mrs. Audrey Battle, Second Vice President presiding, the Wednesday morning session opened and processional of officers occurred as the choir and congregation sang "Marching to Zion". Scripture and prayer were given, respectively by Mrs. Magdalene and Dr. Georgia Turner. Dr. Charles Bullock, President of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, brought greetings. Dr. Priscilla A. Brodie gave the Annual Report and shared the titles and cost of each study book for all levels of institute studies. A "special feature" was by the Union County Mass Choir. Mrs. Blonnie Livingston presented the President, Mrs. Julius McDonald, for delivery of her address. She electrified the audience as she shared that: We must show the world that the church is about family. Three families of diverse family structures - the family of Jesus, your family, and the church family. In Jesus' family, Mary and Joseph were ideal parents. In your family, using Paul's formula to the Ephesians as he admonished husbands, wives, and children will lead to the making of the family God intended from the beginning. The church family is "blood family" through Jesus Christ and share the same name as brothers and sisters in Christ. She left this reminder for us to ponder -

that family, Jesus' family, your family, and the church family, must be characterized by love, care, concern, and mutual respect. As she closed her address, her last reminder was that as family, we share some things in common: we are looking toward one day seeing Jesus because of what He accomplished one Friday out on Calvary's Hill and on the following Sunday morning. Music was by the convention choir.

Presiding as the Wednesday afternoon session began was Fourth Vice President, Mrs. Elizabeth Marrow. Directors, associate directors, and presidents led the processional. Ms. Vanessa Gregory, Young Adult Director, and Mrs. Erica Barnhill, President, were in charge of the young adult hour. Mrs. Jessica McDougald introduced Mrs. Barnhill who delivered her annual address. A "Praise Dance" was by Ms. Jordan McKiver and Ms. Brandon Mosely sang "Pass It On". Young Adult promotions and scholarship awards were made by Dr. Brodie and Mrs. McDonald. The following Young Adults were promoted: Kim Harris and Reverend Willie Hargrove, Jr. Scholarship winner was Judy Barber of Damascus Church, Wilkes County.

The Youth Department session was opened with Fourth Vice President Maya Thompson presiding. Greetings and projections for 2003 were given by Mrs. Ellender LeMay, who reported that 1,196 youth were in attendance. She also presented "Project" Winners and the financial report:

"Have-A-Heart for Mission" Monetary winners were as follows: First Place, Kimberly Jackson; Second Place, Debra Miller of Duplin County, District 6, Group 1.

Shaw Project winners were: First Place, Felisha Hines; Second Place, Rachel Campbell.

Have-A-Heart Talent winners were: Sam Moody of District 8 and Halifax County (5-10 years); Temika Ramseur and Kimberly Jackson of Durham County (11-20 years).

Talent Winners were: John Dixon III of Wake County (5-10 years); Nathan Jones of Franklin County Union (11-20 years).

President Vernice Lassiter was introduced by George Matz, First Vice President. President Vernice Lassiter delivered a challenging message. Dr. Brodie and Mrs. McDonald presented department promotions and the scholarship award. Receiving the scholarship was Megan Tabron. The following youth were promoted: Vernice Lassiter, George Metz, Steven Floyd, Lynetta Chaney, and Pamela LeMay. The youth presented a

POSITION OPEN:

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

The Woman's Baptist Home & Foreign Missionary Convention, Auxiliary to GBSC, is accepting applications for an Administrative Assistant. Applicants should meet the following requirements:

- Have an Associate or Bachelors degree, preferably in Business Management (some courses in Christian Education) with some years of experience
- Have communicative and organizational skills
- Be able to maintain lists, schedule(s)
- Be able to work with minimal supervision
- Have proficiency in business English
- Have knowledge of preparing and reporting state and federal taxes preparation
- Have proficient computer skills
- Have a pleasant personality and telephone skills
- Have team spirit

Salary is negotiable, good benefits.

For further information and application, please write to: Executive Secretary-Treasurer
Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention of North Carolina,
Auxiliary to GBSC, • P. O. Box 1818 • Raleigh, NC 27602
Telephone (919) 833-4323 • Fax (919) 833-7599
Email: WBHFM@WBH-FMC.Org

See SESSION, Page 5

Why Celebrate CHRISTmas

By Executive Secretary-Treasurer Brodie

Blessed are we to see the season which emphasizes Christmas. We reflect



Dr. Priscilla Brodie

Servant, God has empowered with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit has given



Dr. Julias McDonald

earth"; He rules the earth with His Word.

Thus in Luke 4:18-19, He says about Himself – "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed; To proclaim the

acceptable year of the Lord", (God's period/time when people are liberated from sin and its effects).

Then why should we celebrate Christmas? We should celebrate Christmas with praise and thanks, because, according to the mentioned scriptural references, God has given THE BEST GIFT to the World, and that GIFT IS JESUS, THE CHRIST. THIS GIFT has met, meets, and will meet all of our needs. Let us keep Him in Christmas by the way we live. For He is our Captain of our salvation, our High Priest, our Righteous Judge, our Immanuel, our Saviour, our Truth, our Messiah, our Avenger, and our Sovereign. To God Be The Glory!

TO ALL A BLESSED CHRISTMAS!

ALL HAIL THE POWER

All hail the Pow'r of Jesus' name! Let angels pros-trate fall;
Bring forth the roy-al di-a-dem; And crown Him Lord of all;
Bring forth the roy-al di-a-dem, And crown Him Lord of all!

Ye cho-sen seed of Is-rael's race, Ye ransomed from the fall,
Hail Him who saves you by His grace, And crown Him Lord of all;
Hail Him who saves you by His grace, And crown Him Lord of all!

Let ev-ry kin-dred, ev-ry tribe, On this ter-res-trial ball,
To Him all maj-es-ty as-cribe, And crown Him Lord of all;
To Him all maj-es-ty as-cribe, And crown Him Lord of all!

O that with yon-der sa-cred throng We at His feet may fall!
We'll join the ev-er last-ing song, And

crown Him Lord of all;
We'll join the ev-er last-ing song, And crown Him Lord of all!

Edward Perronet



REMINDERS

The 2003-2004 Budget is in the amount of \$811,055.00: Foreign Missions, \$80,200.00; State Missions, \$570,855.00; Shaw University, \$49,500.00; Shaw Divinity School, \$33,500.00; Central Children Home, \$36,500.00; and Baptist Assembly, \$40,500.00.

On Saturday, January 10, 2004, will be the One-Day Session of the Woman's Convention at the Raleigh Civic Center,

beginning at 9:00 A.M. for Seniors, Young Adults, and Youth. Among the guests will be representatives of our objectives.

A-1's and Lydia organizations, and preaching will be featured. Please begin praying now and making preparations to attend this session. Also **please, please** bring a very generous gift for State Missions that we may realize at least \$25,000.

Suggested financial quotas for 2003-2004 have been sent out to church missionary circle presidents for a contact person. If your church has not received a suggested quota, please contact the Convention Office immediately at (919) 833-4823 or email wbfmc@wbh-fmc.org. Please give us the name of contact person, mailing address and telephone number, and the name and location of church.

SESSION, From Page 4

dynamic mini-concert with Devon Townsend as choir director and Jeremy Buie and Steven Floyd as pianists and assistant pianists, respectively.

During the Wednesday evening session with the Foreign Mission Night, Vice President Linda Inman presided. Music was by the Mountain and Catawba Association Choir. The Foreign Missions presentation entitled "When Mission Partners Talk" was by the Mountain and Catawba Association. Mrs. Hazel Lewis presented the Nomination Committee report.

Dr. W. B. Lewis, board member of Lott Carey, was presented by Mrs. Colene Stanley as the speaker. Sharing the topic, "The Charge to the Church", he stated the church has the mission to preach and make disciples.

The closing session opened on Thursday morning with President McDonald presiding. Committee reports were given. The message was by Reverend George Battle, Sr. Those in attendance experienced an uplifting,

inspiring, and a joyful convention period. Each morning was ushered in with early morning devotion. Mission study classes were held, as missionaries gained spiritual helps in becoming better ambassadors for Christ. The youth and young adult sessions were highlighted as follows: Young Adults held a prayer breakfast, shared topic discussions, visited the nursing facility, and participated in early morning devotion and in missions study classes.

Youth participated in youth fellowship games, early morning worship, mission study classes, "Have-A-Heart" and "Shaw" projects, and a Missions Prayer Pizza Party and Hour.

The closing gavel brought the 119th Session to an end. Missionaries seemingly left the Benton Convention Center with a renewed commitment and a greater dedication as they returned to their respective churches, communities, cities, and countries to "Serve the Present Age as the Family Is Transformed Through Christian Ethics and Values".

POSITION OPEN: SECRETARY

The Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention, Auxiliary to GBSC, is accepting applications for a Secretary. Applicants should meet the following qualifications:

- Have completed high school and have had several business courses beyond high school
- Have knowledge of business English
- Have efficient knowledge of computer operations, especially word processing and spreadsheets
- Have good typing speed and accuracy
- Have the ability to relate to people
- Have team spirit

The salary is negotiable; good benefits.

For further information and application, please write to:

The Executive Secretary-Treasurer

Woman's Baptist Home & Foreign Missionary Convention of North Carolina
Auxiliary to GBSC • P. O. Box 1818 • Raleigh, NC 27602

Telephone (919) 833-4823 * Fax (919) 833-7599

Email: WBHFMC@WBH-FMC.Org

POSITION OPEN: BOOKKEEPER/ACCOUNTANT

The Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention, Auxiliary to GBSC, is accepting applications for a Bookkeeper/Accountant. Applicants should meet the following qualifications:

- Have an Associate or Bachelors degree in bookkeeping and/or accounting
- Have efficient knowledge of computer operations in terms of spreadsheets and general ledgers and any other bookkeeping/Accounting procedures
- Have adequate typing skills
- Have ability to relate to people
- Have team spirit

The salary is negotiable; good benefits.

For further information and application, please write to:

The Executive Secretary-Treasurer

Woman's Baptist Home & Foreign Missionary Convention of North Carolina
Auxiliary to GBSC • P. O. Box 1818 • Raleigh, NC 27602

Telephone (919) 833-4823 * Fax (919) 833-7599

Email: WBHFMC@WBH-FMC.Org

A mind is a terrible thing to waste: *United Negro College Fund*

Submitted By Portia Brandon, M.Div.
Christian Education Coordinator

Help our youth realize their dreams, by applying for the following scholarships:

THE NAACP OFFERS SIX NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Roy Wilkins Scholarship – For entering freshmen only – Award amount is \$1,000.



Portia
Brandon

Sutton Education Scholarship – For undergraduate and graduate students majoring in Education – Undergraduate Award amount \$1,000; Graduate \$2,000.

Willems Scholarship for Male Students – For undergraduate and graduate male students majoring in engineering chemistry, physics or mathematics – Undergraduate Award amount \$2,000; Graduate \$3,000.

Agnes Jones Jackson Scholarship – For undergraduate and graduate students under the age of twenty-five – Undergraduate Award amount \$1,500; Graduate \$2,500.

Louis Stokes Science & Technology Award – For incoming freshmen majoring in Engineering, Science, Computer or Mathematical Science – Award Amount \$2,000.

Earl G. Graves/NAACP Scholarship Award – For enrolled juniors or seniors majoring in Business or a Graduate student enrolled to a Master or Doctoral program within a Business School – Award Amount \$5,000.

All applications and supporting documentation must be postmarked by April 30th. There are no exceptions to this requirement. For additional information, call the NAACP National Education Division at (410) 358-8900.

NATIONAL BAPTIST CONGRESS OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Annual Scholarship Program – Five scholarships will be given out to Convention youth at the 2004 session in Memphis, TN. One person from each of

the Congress' four regions and the winner of the Congress' annual oratorical contest will each receive a \$5,000 scholarship. The Scholarship Committee, chaired by Mrs. Pansy R. King (New Jersey), Dr. Linda Fortenberry (Louisiana), Portia Brandon (North Carolina), and Mary Issac (Texas), has the responsibility for making the recommendations, based on applications forwarded from the regional Vice Presidents. Each State Congress has the opportunity to submit one scholarship application (in accordance with the published guidelines) to the regional Vice Presidents. The Congress' scholarship fund is funded with Congress funds, supplemented by an endowment from the Shiloh Baptist Church in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, pastored by Dr. Charles T. Smith, the Vice-President-At-Large of the Congress.

List of Scholarships

Ron Brown Scholarships – Go to: www.RonBrown.org. The award: Leadership, community service, all fields. The deadline is usually in January. This is one of the most prestigious scholarships and it's very competitive. Details at site.

Jackie Robinson Foundation Scholarship – Go to: www.JackieRobinson.org. The award: \$6,000 per year. Number of winners: at least 600. Academic merit, leadership, community service, all fields. Deadline: Usually April. Details at site.

Project Excellence Scholarships – Go to: www.project-excellence.com. The award: \$4,000 or higher (to full tuition). Number of winners: At least 600.

Academic merit, leadership, community service, all fields. Deadline: February 1. **United College Fund Scholarships** – Go to: www.uncf.org/programs. The UNCF is one of our major scholarship gateways. The awards are of varying amounts, and there are a great many under different names and requirements (Grandmet, Duracell, for example). The deadline is usually December. Details at site.

Kodak Scholarships – Go to: www.kodak.com/US/en/motion/programs/student/scholarship.shtml. The award: Varying amounts to \$5,000. Number of awards: Varies. For those studying in film/cinematography at U.S. colleges. Details at site.

Intel Science Talent Search – Go to: www.sciserv.org/sts. The award is from \$5,000 to \$100,000. There are approximately 40 awards in this prestigious competition. You must present a scientific research project. Deadline: December. Details at site.

NACME Scholarships – (National Action Council for Minorities in Engineering). Go to: www.nacme.org/sch.index.html. The award amounts to \$20,000, and many are awarded. This is our major engineering scholarship gateway. You must be an engineering student. The deadline is usually in February. Go to the web site for details.

Gates Millennium Scholarships – Go to: www.gmsp.org/SOW4. The Gates Millennium Scholarship is to promote academic excellence and to provide an opportunity for thousands of outstanding students with significant financial need. The scholarship will cover room, board and tuition for at least 1,000 high school students a year. Nomination material for 2002 – 2003 will be available November 2001. Deadline: March 16.

NSBE Scholarships – National Society of Black Engineers. Go to: www.nsbe.org/scholarships. Award amount: Generally range from \$1,500 to \$3,000 for members of NSBE. Number of awards vary. This is primarily for engineering students and others majoring in related disciplines. Information at web site.

American Institute of Certified Public Accountants Scholarships (AICPA) – Go to: www.aicpa.org/members/div/career/mini/smas.html. For undergraduates studying accounting at a U.S. college with at least 30 credits completed.

Coca-Cola Scholars Scholarships – Go to: www.coca-colascholars.org. This is a major competition with hundreds of over 250 going to "scholars" with academic, leadership, and talent qualities. The award amount is from \$4,000 to \$20,000. You can apply online. The deadline is October 31.

Ambassadorial Scholarships – Go to: http://www.rotary.org/foundation/educational/amb_sch/rotarian/counsel.html. This is the prestigious "rotary" organization scholarship for students who can speak another language and want to study abroad in the "host" country of that language. Award amounts are from \$10,000 to \$23,000 for a 3-month to a full year of study abroad. You should have completed at least 2 years of college work.

Ronald McDonald House Charities and the United Negro College Fund – Go to: www.mcdonalds.com/countries/usa/community/education/scholarships/index.html. Students must be studying at a HBCU which is a member of the UNCF. The award is from \$1,000 to full tuition. Approximately 60 students are selected. The deadline is April 1. Go to web site

for details.

Xerox Technology Minority Scholarship – Go to: www.xerox.com and type in "scholarships" on the search engine. This is a good scholarship for strong minority scholarships for students studying in areas like chemistry, engineering, physics, and "tech" areas. The award amount is up to \$4,000 for undergraduates and more for graduate students. The deadline is Sept. 15. Go to site for more details.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Scholarships – Go to: www.akasaf.org/scholarshipprogram.html. The above link is to the Chicago headquarters and that gateway of scholarships. Note that there are over 700 AKA chapters, and you would be wise to contact sorors at local locations. Scholarship opportunities abound. The deadline at AKA headquarters is Feb. 15. Applications (at web site) must be sent between Dec. 1 and Jan. 30th of each year.

NCAA Scholarships (National Collegiate Athletic Association) – Go to: www.ncaa.org/about/scholarships.html. This is the major NCAA sports association student-athletes are associated with. Awards are given in all sports categories, amounts from \$3,000 to \$12,500. Awards are also available for sports related study (like sports journalism). Deadlines vary, as do the number of awards each year.

National Alliance for Excellence Scholarships – Go to: www.excellence.org/programs.html. The student competitors can be seniors or already in college. They must submit an application that can include recommendations (academics), art (slides), dance (tapes), photographs, or other materials that point to talent and achievement in all areas. The awards are for a minimum of one year, and over 100 are granted. Applications can be submitted at any time. The selection process is ongoing. Go to the web site for more.

Harry S. Truman Scholarships – Go to: www.truman.gov. This is one of the most prestigious scholarships, shaped for students who intend to pursue a career targeted to public service or government. Graduate study should be a goal, with a portion of the funds directed there. You must be at least a junior, and your college must nominate you. A "nomination" package must be created. The awards can reach as high as \$30,000 over the years. Generally about 80 students are selected. The deadline is February 1st. Go to the web site for details.

136th Year of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc.

Submitted by Dianne Newell
President Congress of Christian Education

What is the role of the church?

The purpose of the church is to glorify God by equipping the saints for the work of the ministry. "And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as

pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ"

(Ephesians 4:11-12, NASB).



Diane Newell

The three major themes

of this scripture are: "Equipping", "Growth toward Maturity", and "Giftedness".

"Equipping"

It has been said, "The difference in churches is leaders, and the difference in leaders is training." Church leaders are not to function as dictators, but as equippers of God's people. Leaders are not to do all the work, but to equip the body to do the work. We all have functions to perform, and should be working to accomplish our unique tasks. Paul takes it a step further with Timothy, as he admonishes Timothy to develop multiple leaders.

"And the things you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, these commit to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also." (II Timothy 2:1). Everyone will not be a leader, just as not all are to be teachers. (James 3:1) Leaders and disciples are to

multiply themselves in order for the church to grow and mature. Everyone

in the church should operate in his or her giftedness. In the Black church equipping is usually done through the preaching of the pastor and the Sunday School program. We must integrate these two primary components of the church to develop Christian Education ministries. The education ministry of the church must include "equipping" for ministry that moves the disciple to action.

"Growth toward Maturity"

Ephesians 4:1 admonishes us to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which we have been called. Ephesians 4:13 and 4:15 speak of our growing to maturity in Christ. Maturity does not come independently, but through God's leaders and through the use of our gifts to build one another. (Ephesians 4:16) Paul labored with and for the Colossians so they would mature. "And we proclaim Him, admonishing every man with all wisdom, that we may present every man complete in Christ. And for this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mighty works within me" (Colossians 1:28-29). Just as Paul nurtured the body, we must nurture the church today to aid in bringing the church to maturity. We must consider how we are helping the body to mature in Christ so that we can prepare to serve outside the "church building".

"Giftedness"

God has gifted each member in the body of the Church. "Now there are

136th Year Of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc.

Ebenezer Baptist Church
Charlotte, North Carolina
October 28, 2003

diversities of gifts, but the same spirit. And there are differences of administrations,

but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal" (1 Corinthians 14:12). The parts of the body are to work together complementing each other, too often we use our giftedness in contrast. "For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.

For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. For the body is not one member, but many"

(1 Corinthians 12:12-14).

"Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular. And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondly prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, government, diversities of tongues. Are all apostles? are all workers of miracles? Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret? But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way"

(1 Corinthians 12:27-30).

UNCF cont'd from page 6

National Association of Hispanic Journalists

Go to: www.nahj.org/student.html. Awards from \$1,000 - \$5,000. Students interested in journalism as a career can apply. Deadline is Feb. 28th. See web site for details.

National Association of Black Journalists

Go to: www.nabj.org/html/studentsvc.html. NABJ offers 10 scholarships. It's a \$2,500 award. Students should be attending a four-year university. They must present three letters of recommendation from a school advisor, dean or a faculty member. Also a 500 - 800 word article on a Black journalist must be presented. A GPA of 3.0 is desirable. Eligible students must be majoring in journalism-print, photography, radio or television. One of those should be a career goal. Deadline is March 31. Go to web site for details.

Hispanic College Fund Scholarships

Go to: www.hispanicfund.org/hcf-scholar.html. Major site for Hispanic students majoring in business-related areas, A to Z (accounting, human resources, communications, and more). The award amount varies. Over 140 Awards granted. Deadline: April. Go to the web site for more information.

Arts Recognition and Talent Search Awards

Go to: www.artsawards.org. These awards are granted to high school or college students (17, 18 years of age) who show talent in dance, voice, music, art, photography, jazz, visual arts, writing, or other creative areas. You must audition or submit a portfolio or tape. The award is to be used for freshman year in college. Award amounts from \$100 to \$3,000. Deadline is June 1 or

April 1 (for registration in specific regions).

Society of Women Engineers Scholarships

Go to: www.swe.org/SWE/StudentServices/Scholarship/brochure.html. These scholarships are targeted for women who are majoring in engineering or computer science. Award amounts are from \$200 to \$5,000 and at least 90 are granted. The deadline for students already in college is February 1st but May 15 for high school seniors entering an "accredited" program.

Tylenol® Scholarship

The makers of Tylenol® Family of Products will award ten \$10,000 scholarships and 150 \$1,000 scholarships for higher education to students who demonstrate leadership in community activities and school activities and who intend to major in areas that will lead to health related fields.

You may apply to the Tylenol® Scholarship if you will be attending an undergraduate or graduate course of study in the Fall at an accredited two or four-year college, university or vocational-technical school. This includes those students currently enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate course of study and have one or more years of school remaining.

The application forms are to be printed and returned by April 30, via U.S. mail to:

Tylenol® Scholarship
Citizens' Scholarship Foundation of America, Inc.
1505 Riverview Road, P. O. Box 88
St. Peter, MN 56082

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Deacon Jarvis Morgan Honored

Deacon Jarvis Morgan, who is recognized as one of the most outstanding Laymen in the history of the North Carolina State Laymen's League, was honored at the GBSC of North Carolina's Presidential Banquet on Tuesday evening, October 28, 2003. During that banquet, the President of the General Baptist State Convention of NC, Inc., Dr. Charles Bullock, presented Deacon Morgan with the Presidential Award for Distinguished Service. The banquet was held in Charlotte, NC at Ebenezer Baptist Church where Reverend Dr. Leonzo Lynch serves as Pastor.

The honoree, Deacon Morgan, is the immediate past President of the NC State Laymen's League Auxiliary where, under his presidency, the State Laymen's League flourished in both numbers and good deeds as he led the State Laymen into greater service to their fellowmen, especially during the re-building of flooded homes in Eastern NC. It was just "good leadership". He continues to admonish and motivate the State Laymen while giving Godly advice such as: Keep God first in all that you do. Always try to do that which is right. When you get up to speak, always come from the Bible, and you can't go wrong because the Word of God is always in order. A scripture that he quotes frequently is "In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your path."

During his association with the State Laymen's League Auxiliary, Deacon Morgan has been honored several times. Those honors include Laymen of the Year Award and induction into the Laymen's Hall of Fame. Honors that over the years have been awarded only to those NC Laymen who have (through their dedication, hard work, loyalty, and faithfulness) made significant contributions towards meeting the objectives of the NC Laymen's Auxiliary.

The honoree, Deacon Morgan, attends Juniper Level Baptist Church in Raleigh, NC where Reverend Alexander B. Herring serves as Pastor. He has faith-

fully served as a Deacon at Juniper Level for the past 23 years and currently serves as Chairman of the Church's Deacon's Board. He also serves as Chairman of Sick and Nursing Home Committee, serves on the Church's Budget and Financial Ministry, and is the past Sunday School Superintendent. Some additional awards that he has received are: Juniper Level Baptist Church, Certificate of Appreciation for Sick Ministry; NC State LL Auxiliary, Appreciation Award 1994; NC State LL Auxiliary, Outstanding Stewardship as Chair of Study Commission 1990; NC State LL Auxiliary, Teaching the Masses Award, Jan. 2001; NC State LL Auxiliary, Hall of Fame, Oct. 1995; Lyndhurst Manor Community Club, Presidential Service Award 1982-84; 1st County Line Baptist Association Award for Loyal dedicated and committed service to NC State LL Auxiliary, Nov. 16, 2002; 1st County Line Baptist Association, Proclamation to Past State LL President, Nov. 16, 2002. He is also a lifetime member of the NAACP.

His wife Mahalie, whom he married April 28, 1944, and he are the proud parents of one son (Ronald Gilbert Morgan of Los Angeles, California) and one daughter (Barbara Morgan Lee of Raleigh, NC). They also have three grandsons and seven great grandchildren.

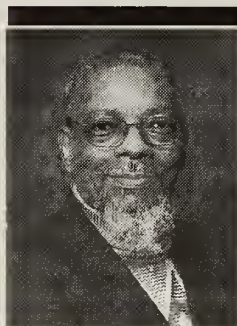
Deacon Morgan is very well known and highly respected by Lott Carey Convention Laymen as well as the Laymen of the National Baptist Convention. He is the past Laymen's League President for the Wake Association and continues building and organizing local Laymen Leagues locally, as well as throughout the State of NC.

Congratulations and thanks to Deacon Jarvis Morgan for modeling the behaviors of a truly outstanding Layman. But thanks to Deacon Morgan, most of all, for leading the blessed life of a Godly man as described in the 1st Psalm.

Laymen meeting at Jones Chapel

Submitted by Deacon John Gladden

The Laymen will be meeting at Jones Chapel Baptist Church in Roberson, NC on December 13, 2003. We are looking for as many as can to please make this



Deacon John Gladden

meeting. We have a lot of work to do. We were in Memphis, TN in September and we made a challenge that we would take the crown when we get to Huntsville, AL. That means that we must take about 300 people there. With your help, we can do it. We are asking pastors, ministers, women and children to take part in this event. We are starting early getting commitments for October 2004. The Laymen of NC have been asked to host the Southern Workshop in 2006. We are going to get committees together to start working on

this. We need the help and support of our pastors to help in bringing men together to work on this project.

We are still working at bringing men and boys to Christ, so that they can be a very good help to their church and pastor. God wants us to teach those that do not know Him. We must tell them about our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ, and how good He is and where He brought us from. When they learn of Christ, they go out with their head up and tell the world about Him. We must reach the unreachable and teach the unteachable. This is our task; this is our commitment as we travel across the state of NC and beyond lifting up the name of Jesus.

We, the Laymen, are very grateful to Brother Richmon Turner for coming forward to become the first administrator to the president and acting field worker to the Laymen. After one year that we have been looking and asking for someone to work in the position that Brother Hales had, the Laymen are very grateful and just thank God for Brother Turner. With prayers of all of General Baptist State Convention, we say thank you. To God be the Glory!



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HISTORICAL OBSERVATION

By Dr. Jasper P. Reed, Historian, GBSC

Two events of recent vintage cause me to pause and pay tribute to someone whom I did not get to know long enough. In this case I would have loved to work with and observe him over a protracted period; however, I was greatly impressed by his exhibited faith and devotion to his calling the little time I spent with him. The instructive voice I am referring to is the late Rev. Dr. Leo Williams.

The first of these events was a cursory review of Dr. Lora-Ellen McKinney's book entitled "Christian Education in the African American Church", and the second was the mentioning of an offering to be lifted to start a memorial scholarship in memory of Dr. Williams, our immediate Past Christian

A Posthumous Tribute to an Instructive Voice

Education Director, during the 136th Annual Session of the General Baptist State Convention held recently. In his foreword to Dr. McKinney's book, the Rev. Dr. Johnny Ray Youngblood wrote, "This book declares the indispensability of Christian Education in the life and work of the church; that is, regardless of one's definition, church worship and Christian education are inseparable for equipping of the saints." This expressed the profound passion Dr. Williams exhibited during my limited exposure, conversations, and work with him. I got an intimate glimpse into the life of this instructive voice when I attended his home going services in August 2003. Dr. Leo Williams was born into a devout

Christian family in Pollocksville, NC. He joined the church at an early age where he was nurtured and grew in grace and the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. He was educated in the Jones County public schools in his hometown. He served his country honorably for four years, in the United States Air Force during the Korean conflict. Following his tour of duty, he enrolled in Shaw University, Raleigh, NC, where he earned the Bachelor of Arts degree and continued in Shaw to earn a Masters of Divinity degree. Later he was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Divinity degree by Shaw University. Dr. Williams served as pastor and proclaimed the gospel in Pollocksville, New Bern, and Williamston, NC. He joined the staff of GBSC as its Director of Christian Education where he served for 25 years before retiring.

It was during the autumn years of his life and his tenureship as Christian education director that I met him. I was impacted, by his demeanor, profoundly. He was quiet, informative and focused. His love was Christian education and he tried to make it real in the lives of the GBSC community of churches. To capture Dr. Williams' passion, listen as Dr. McKinney, in her book, describes it for us. "To fully understand and access the love of Christ, we must know Him. To know Him we must study Him and learn, through direct instructions, private study, and corporate worship, the meaning and import of His word as it applies to our lives." He passed his concept

of Christian education to me in a very subtle manner. I attempted to make it a part of my program while serving as President of the Congress of Christian Education of GBSC. When we would meet he had words of confidence, encouragement

and wisdom for me. I looked forward to our per chance meetings. I felt complete after talking with him. His words were softly spoken and Biblically based, and reminded me of Numbers 27:16-17. He was the messenger of the Lord anointed in response to Moses' recommendation. He, Dr. Williams, spent 25 years doing what was explained in verse 17. He was encouraging us to carry on.

It is my desire that GBSC will pursue, with vigor and vigilance, the establishment of the Dr. Leo Williams Memorial Scholarship Fund for Christian Education. This is one way of assuring future generations that this instructive voice was not shut up by death, and that through the scholarship fund he can still speak to us as we carry on his work. I am encouraging GBSC members, Churches, and Associations to help make this scholarship a reality and help keep alive his labor in perpetuity. ■



Dr. Jasper Reed

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Dr. A.T. Griffey, III
Senior Pastor

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Tuesday Evening Girl Scouts - 6:00 pm
Wednesday Evening Intercessory Prayer - 6:30 pm
Wednesday Evening Bible Study - 7:00 pm
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Build an Idea File

By Dr. Donaldson Jones, President



Dr. Donaldson Jones

"No man is an Island" or for that matter, no church either. We can and do learn from others. Churches within and across ethnic and denominational lines can be a source of idea stimulation.

Studying the bulletins and publications of other churches can help in understanding their appeal and who they often appeal to, and are not appealing. These articles can usually be obtained with ease. Members could be encouraged to share church materials they pick up when visiting other churches.

The church could also get on other churches' mailing lists or make specific requests for materials that they publish. More often than not, I have found that these churches will assist you any way they can.

Special Note: All ministers who are working with, or who would like to work with, the Ministers' council, please meet at the Sheraton Capital Center Hotel in governor's Room 2 on Friday, December 5 3:00 p.m.

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DR. CHARLES T. BULLOCK, PRESIDENT

Martin Luther King, Jr. Banquet

• JANUARY 9, 2004 •

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| 03. God Said It, I Believe And That Settles It / It All Adds Up | 49. On The Day Of Pentecost |
| 04. Burn Up Or Burn Out For God | 50. Jesus Is All That! And A Whole Lot More |
| 05. Busted Britches From Straddling The Fence | 51. Muddy Putty In The Potter's Hands |
| 06. Dangerous Minds | 52. When Stress Controls You Jesus Consoles You |
| 07. Don't Even Think About It | 53. Black Men And Women, Young And Old, Changing A Generation |
| 08. Fired Up By The Holy Ghost | 54. I Am Black But I Am Somebody |
| 09. Are You Full Of The Stuff | 55. Staying Afloat In A Sinking Boat |
| 10. Let's Get On Board | 56. He That Has A Friend Must Show Himself Friendly |
| 11. God Picked Me To Be On His Side | 57. Victory Is Mine |
| 12. Grace On The Race | 58. Occupy Till I Come |
| 13. Grow Up Or Blow Up | 59. A Man On A Mission / The Borrowed Ax |
| 14. Hang In There | 60. Busy In God's Business |
| 15. He Lifted Me Up Out Of The Miry Clay | 61. That's Just Like Mama |
| 16. Look Where The Lord Has Brought Me From | 62. He's Alive And I Am Glad About It |
| 17. If My People | 63. What The World Needs Now Is Love Sweet Love |
| 18. We Can Do It For A New Day Has Come | 64. I Moved From My Old House And My Old Friends |
| 19. I Know What Prayer Can Do | 65. I Just Want To Know Why |
| 20. Put Some Clothes On Child | 66. What Do You Do When Life Is Not Fair |
| 21. A Right Thing In A Wrong Time | 67. Why Do Bad Things Happen To Good People |
| 22. The Man Who Had Everything But The Right Thing | 68. What Do You Do When Your Brook Runs Dry |
| 23. Soap For The Soul | 69. Diagnosis From Dr. Jesus, Go And See The Dr. |
| 24. Stay On The Lord's Side | 70. Who Is This Man |
| 25. If You Take One Step He'll Take Two | 71. What Would Jesus Do |
| 26. Stepping In Your Own Mess | 72. If I Could But Touch The Hem Of His Garment |
| 27. I Can't Lose With The Stuff I Use | 73. Come See A Man |
| 28. You Can't Touch This | Twenty-One (21) New Sermons |
| 29. Warm In A Cold Situation | 74. Wounded By The Ones You Love |
| 30. That's The Way He Died But That's Not The End Of The Story | 75. How To Stand In The Storms Of Life |
| 31. What You See Is What You Get | 76. Don't Quit |
| 32. What's Faith Got To Do With It | 77. Speak To Me Lord Jesus |
| 33. You Can't Make It Without God | 78. Get Behind Me Satan |
| 34. I Just Want To Say... "Thank You Lord" | 79. Good Things Happen When Jesus Shows Up |
| 35. A Heart Like Thine | 80. Where Are You? Adam |
| 36. Just A Closer Walk With Thee | 81. Committed Because I Am Submitted |
| 37. Give Me A Clean Heart So I Can Serve You | 82. Are You A Disciplined Disciple |
| 38. What Ever The Problem God Has The Answer | 83. Answering God's Call |
| 39. Peace - In The Midst Of My Storm | 84. Too Blessed To Be Stressed |
| 40. I Am On The Right Road, Now! | 85. Thrilled By His Will |
| 41. A Good Man In A Bad Situation | 86. These Things Only Come By Prayer And Fasting |
| 42. Good Medicine For A Bad Ailment | 87. Just Like Daddy |
| 43. Stand Up And Testify | 88. I Got Two Wings And The World Can't Do Me No Harm |
| 44. Bad Boys! What You're Going To Do When He Comes For You | 89. The Prayer Of Jabez |
| 45. Angels Just Keep Watching Over Me | 90. I Will Meet You On The Other Side |
| 46. Go Ahead! Make My Day | 91. Can't Come Right Now, I Am On Duty |
| | 92. What A Mighty God We Serve |
| | 93. When Life Makes You Wonder |
| | 94. Fighting The Good Fight |

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Peace Be Unto You: A Choice Is Required

By A. T. Griffey, III
Statistician, GBSC

Peace Be Unto You: The views and statements in this article are views of the writer and not GBSC or its staff.....



Dr. A.T.
Griffey, III

As I've watched the events in the leadership of the U.S. Episcopal Church and the approval given

completely deceived. This is clearly outside the scope of my normal message, but if I'm to call myself a minister of the true Gospel of Jesus Christ, I must speak out. "His Word is in my heart like a fire, a fire shut up in my bones. I'm weary of holding it in, indeed, I cannot" (Jeremiah 20:9). I cannot remain silent.

In one sense, the 75 million members of the Anglican and Episcopal Churches are very fortunate today. God loves you enough to present you with a clear choice. We often struggle with properly following God's path, but in this case His path is extremely well lit.

Joshua 24:15: "But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or

the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."

I'm not going to address the particular sin, nor how we ought to deal with others who struggle with such sin - this requires love and grace and a gentle leading toward a restored relationship with our Heavenly Father. But when those in leadership fail to recognize sin, they have lost the

right to lead. And any leader who fails to take a stand and continues to give approval (even approval through silence) has forfeited the right to lead a flock toward the truth.

This is a very serious issue, which will affect many generations. Failure to recognize such clear sin and how it must sadden and even anger God is a failure to interpret God's Word and a

failure to be led by His Spirit.

The Choice? Those in leadership must do everything in their power to separate themselves and their congregation from any alliance which continues to support these sinful actions. The choice must be made at the risk of loss of financial support, loss of fellowship, or loss of land. This is not a time to accept the statement that "what we hold in common is much greater than that which divides us" (The Archbishop of Canterbury). This issue must override all that is held in common! And any church member who fails to see movement away from such an alliance (with grace shown as to the speed of movement) must separate themselves from that congregation.

These are very difficult decisions and will require much prayer and strength from God. He has illuminated His path; but now, a choice is required.

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Banquet

January 9, 2004 • Raleigh Civic Center



Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ!

The General Baptist State Convention Annual Banquet, in memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., will be held at 6:30 p.m. Friday, January 9, 2004 at the Raleigh Civic Center, Raleigh, North Carolina.

Our guest speaker is Dr. Charles B. Jackson, Pastor Brookland Baptist Church, West Columbia, South Carolina. We urge you to be present for this annual event, which will be an evening for rich fellowship and spiritual information in keeping with the spirit of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Please order your Martin Luther King, Jr. Banquet Tickets **NOW!** It is important that we get our final count by January 5, 2004.

Our Headquarters Hotel this year is the Sheraton Capital Center Hotel, 421 South Salisbury St., Raleigh, NC. Please make your reservations today. Ask for the GBSC rate: \$89.00 + tax, 919/834-9900.

Immediately
following the banquet
(Approx. 9:30)

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Late Night Worship Service
JANUARY 9, 2004

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Sheraton Capital
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421 South Salisbury St.
Raleigh, North Carolina

"Fifty Quick Notes on Ushering"

Submitted by Forest M. Eaves, Jr.
President, Ushers

1. Ushers should be pleasant, courteous, and neat. An usher should strive to make every person who enters feel welcome and comfortable.



Mr. Forest
Eaves

2. Ushers should concentrate, not on themselves, but on the worship and the worshippers.
3. Ushers should be on time. Being on time for an usher means arriving prior to the beginning of worship.
4. Ushers

should be familiar with the Church and the location of the various parts of the Church building.
5. Ushers should strive to keep the aisles of the Church clear and the exits unobstructed.
6. Ushers should know and should practice the approved procedure in the local Church for lifting offerings.
7. Ushers should be familiar with the order of service and know when and when not to admit persons.
8. Ushers should be mindful of their appearance. The uniform should be clean and in accordance with the adopted uniform for the usher group. The usher identifications should be in place. Their personal hygiene should be excellent.
9. Ushers should stand at attention at their posts. Ushers should not congregate together in one place nor should they converse with one another during the service.
10. Ushers should carefully attend to their posture while at the post of duty. Stand tall and look proud to be an usher in the service of the Lord!
11. Ushers should remember that worship is a sacred time and they should respect the worship service and participate in the worship event.
12. An usher who cannot properly handle a question, complaint, or criticism put forth by a worshipper should refer the party in question to the head usher or the usher chairperson.
13. Ushers should greet worshippers in a friendly, warm manner. Gruff or indifferent greeting to parishioners is inappropriate behavior on the part of an usher.
14. Ushers should respect their areas of service in the sanctuary and should not be guilty of "running all over the place". Stay on post.
15. Ushers should treat all persons the

same and show no sign of favoritism.
16. Ushers should be tithers and faithfully keep all obligations of Church membership.
17. Ushers should not chew gum.
18. Ushers should respect the chancel (or altar area) of the sanctuary and not cross it needlessly. Similarly, ushers should discourage others from crossing the altar.
19. Ushers should know what to do in emergency situations and should act promptly and not panic in the face of an emergency.
20. Ushers should become familiar with the names and faces of members of the congregation and seating habits of the same.
21. Ushers should recognize and respect the pastor as the leader of worship. Ushers should work in harmony with the pastor in carrying out the worship service. Ushers should also commit to memory the special desires and expectations of the pastor regarding public, corporate worship.
22. Ushers should attempt to seat worshippers as near the front as possible. However, latecomers should not distract others from the worship by being seated at the front once the service has started and especially when the pastor is preaching.
23. Ushers should not escort more persons down the aisle than there are seats to accommodate the group.
24. Ushers should not "chase" people who slip by their post and find seats on their own.
25. Ushers should handle the offering receptacles carefully. However, if an accident happens and the offering receptacle is dropped, it should be picked up and the offering should be recovered as quickly and dignified as possible.
26. Ushers should consider a smile a part of the official ushers uniform. You are not fully dressed until you put on your smile.
27. Ushers should use courtesy and tact when dealing with people and should go to all possible lengths to avoid being unpleasant or rude and consequently hurting the feelings of others.
28. Ushers should attend, faithfully, usher group business meetings, and usher training sessions. Ushers should seek to attend both Association Union meetings and State Convention gatherings.
29. Ushers should remember that their job is not complete when the benediction is pronounced. There are "after service" duties which need attention.
30. Ushers should be cooperative with and obedient to the direction of head ushers and usher chairpersons. Ushers should see themselves as a part of the team.
31. Ushers who serve in balconies should

act in a manner similar to the ushers on the main floor of the sanctuary.
32. Ushers should participate in Sunday School, prayer services, and the activities of other Church auxiliaries for their personal spiritual growth and development.
33. Ushers should be mindful that they represent their Church and their God at all times – in service and out of service.
34. Ushers should not show displeasure when worshippers fail to follow instructions or fail to follow the usher to the chosen seat.
35. Ushers should follow the approved procedure in reporting necessary absences. Ushers should never wait until the last minute to report that they will be absent for a service in which they are expected to serve.
36. Ushers should be alert, prompt, and efficient.
37. Ushers should concentrate on visitors and go the "extra mile" to make them feel at home and welcome.

38. Ushers should be ready to give special assistance to worshippers with physical disabilities or with other special needs.
39. Ushers should be willing and anxious to serve during revivals and other special services. Ushers should never see their service as "Sunday morning only". Ushers should be willing to serve whenever and wherever needed.
40. Ushers should have an ample supply of materials (for example, bulletins) on hand before the service begins.
41. Ushers should respect sections of the sanctuary, which might be reserved for special purposes.
42. If requested to make a count of persons present, ushers should do this discreetly and accurately.
43. Ushers who have experience should be willing and available to help train

USHERING - Cont'd on next page

REGISTRATION AND REPRESENTATION FORM

Ushers One Day Session

February 28, 2004

DR. CHARLES T. BULLOCK, PRESIDENT GBSC
Benton Convention Center • Winston-Salem, NC

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Mr. Forest M. Eaves, Jr. - President

USHERING - Cont'd from page 12

younger, more inexperienced ushers.

44. Ushers should wear the proper usher identification appropriate for the service whether it is a regular badge, a memorial badge for funerals, or a floral design. Do not be odd and wear a different identifier than everyone else.

45. Ushers should be willing to perform leadership service and to take on leadership responsibilities within the usher group.

46. Ushers should know the proper procedures for handling overflow crowds. If necessary, handle folding chairs as quietly and efficiently as possible.

47. Ushers should be willing to "spot-

check" the sanctuary before and after the worship service to make sure that things are in place and that the appearance of the sanctuary is satisfactory.

48. Ushers should be willing (where no other group exists in the Church) to insure the accurate registration of guests in a guest book.

49. In consultation with the pastor, ushers should be aware of their responsibilities in assuring the comfort and attending to the needs of persons in the pulpit.

50. Ushers should be careful to attend to their personal spiritual growth. Bible study, worship, and Christian service are essential matters not to be taken lightly. ■

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CONGRESS OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

February 14, 2004

DR. CHARLES T. BULLOCK, PRESIDENT GBSC

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"A Time for Transition in My Ministry"

Psalms 24:4-5

By Rev. Michael R. Smith, Sr., Chairman

For the past four years since my return to North Carolina, I have prayed to God my Father the simple prayer recorded in Psalm 25:4-5. This prayer emphasized a leader's utter dependence on God's direction, revelation and instruction in their personal life and ministerial calling. Praying this prayer has revolutionized my life and ministry for which I am eternally thankful. I will continue to pray this prayer, and I submit to you it will bless your life and ministry as well.

The time has come for me to transition to another chapter of ministry. As of January 2004, I will relinquish my Chairmanship of the Institutional & Specialized Ministries. I am very excited about the new ministry opportunities the Lord is directing me toward with Cross of Christ Church Ministries. I will be giving full-time effort in expanding this ministry which seeks to reach, reconcile and restore human lives, especially those impacted by crime and incarceration. This ministry expansion will be taking place in Wake Forest, NC. COCCM will be reaching out to this growing area in order to establish a church ministry to respond to the crime and incarceration crisis through cutting edge ministries. I covet the prayers of my GBSC family in accordance with Psalm 25:4-5. I welcome this new ministry objective and will give my all for Jesus the Christ.



Rev. Michael
Smith, Sr.

I would like to say thank you to President Bullock, Dr. Archie Logan and past President John Fuller for their confidence in my leadership of this vital ministry with the GBSC. I pray I brought something to the table these past three years that has helped to move this great mission field to a higher priority within this convention. I pray the leaders of the GBSC will take this present momentum and move this crisis to a major objective within this state. Though I will not be serving as Chairman as of January 2004, I will still volunteer my time and expertise to the ISM and my GBSC family via articles and prison ministry training opportunities.

I WANT TO THANK ALL THE ISM COMMITTEE MEMBERS WHO WORKED HARD AND SACRIFICED WITH ME OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS.

Lastly, I want to thank you who have responded to my articles, and will still seek to contribute by submitting articles for inclusion to the *Baptist Informer*. I can be reached at the following contact information:

**Michael R. Smith, Sr., M. Div.,
Pastor-Teacher
Cross of Christ Church Ministries
FCC - P. O. Box 1500
Butner, NC 27509
Office - mrsmith@bop.gov
Home - disciplescross@aol.com**

Annual Report of the Office of Health and Human Services

By Anita P. Holmes, JD, MPH,
Executive Director

September 1, 2002 – August 2003

The Office of Health and Human



Dr. Anita
Holmes

Services (HHS) continues its commitment to the development of a holistic health ministry based on the Convention's conviction to minister to the whole person – body, mind, and spirit. The Ministry recog-

nizes the effect of behavior and lifestyle, social and political conditions, spiritual and emotional states, economic and environmental conditions on health. Much of its grounding is from awareness that African Americans often fail to fully benefit from pioneering gains in health made available through new knowledge, medical technology, and research.

During recent years, in an effort to more efficiently handle programmatic and financial operations, and facilitate growth and sustainability, the Center for Health and Healing (a GBSC affiliated tax exempt non-profit entity) was developed. The Center, in partnership with HHS and its parent (GBSC), continues the care agenda of enabling churches to engage in health promotion in effective and efficient ways. Towards the goal of an adequately funded ministry, the Center seeks to establish a healthy mix of funding sources including grants (private and governmental), donations (internal and external), and effective money management.

The four main approaches utilized by the Health Ministry are: Congregational and community empowerment, including the training of Lay Health Advisors (Most of the work is carried out by volunteers); workshops/seminars and presentations; participation on various boards and committees influential in addressing health care services; and public relations. The support of pastors, congregations, associations, moderators, auxiliaries and auxiliary presidents, health care providers, other community partners and collaborators, effective and dedicated staff, and advisors are essential to the success of these efforts.

Congregations and communities benefit through the training and/or services of church based volunteers willing

to inform others about the major causes of selected health problems, help encourage healthier lifestyles, and assist individuals in gaining access to necessary resources. While the Ministry seeks to make services available to all, a special focus is placed on the most vulnerable populations.

Four key projects that address these issues and associated health disparities are:

Faith and Health Initiative. The Faith and Health Initiative, primarily funded by the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust, is now in its third year of operation. The Initiative provides a risk reduction, primary and secondary prevention program aimed at significantly changing risk behaviors through initiatives to (1) encourage nutritionally sound dietary practices (e.g., reducing salt, sugar, and saturated fat) and (2) increase physical activity and exercise. This demonstration project is based in four associations in the Granville, Franklin, Vance and Warren County area.

Mrs. Latasha Sanders is Project Coordinator. The participating associations, moderators, and facilitators are: County Line Association, Rev. Terry Taylor, Moderator, Rev. Mary Crispell, Facilitator; Franklin County Missionary Baptist Association, Rev. Timothy Walker, Sr., Moderator, Ms. Annie Belle Perry, Facilitator; Middle Baptist Association, Rev. S. E. Blalock, Moderator; Mrs. Sarah P. Lemay, Facilitator; and United Shiloh Association, Rev. Lacy L. Joyner, Moderator, Mrs. Marian Williams Burch, Facilitator.

Facilitators are active in recruiting church volunteers as Faith and Health Advocates to provide education and outreach in their church and community. Focus areas are nutrition, physical activity and faith and health. To date, there are a total of 25 churches participating with the Faith and Health Initiative. Since its initiation in July 2001, a total of 108,761 individuals have been reached. This project provides an excellent example of the number of persons that can be served through the empowerment of congregational members to serve as lay health advisors and advocates. In addition to churches and communities in the targeted service area, we seek to carry lessons learned to the overall Convention.

Diabetes Education and Outreach Initiative. GBSC continues to work towards reducing the burden of diabetes in our congregations and communities. While volunteers and advocates continue to work in previous training sites, educa-

tion programs were expanded to Lee County. With the support of the Deep River Association, Dr. Lawrence R. Gilmore, Moderator, Lou Degraffenreidt, Health Ministry Director, education programs were conducted with several Lee County churches. Several of the participating churches were successful in receiving supplementary funds through local initiatives.

The health ministries developed during prior diabetes project activities in the Wilson County Association, Rev. James Barron, Moderator, Mrs. Edith Barron, Project Coordinator; the Waynesville Association, Rev. John Webb, Moderator, Rev. Frank Blount, Immediate Past Moderator, Ms. Jean Bennett, Coordinator; and Mud Creek Association, Rev. James Roberts, Moderator, Rev. Frederick Gordon, Immediate Past Moderator, Ms. Jean Bennett, Coordinator, continue to serve as congregational and community resources. These efforts also include congregational members and health care providers from the Wilmington area under the leadership of Dr. Joseph Windley, Pastor, First Baptist Church. Several health care providers and programs partner with the project in getting information to the community. Initial funding for this project was provided by the Diabetes Prevention and Control Unit of the N. C. Department of Health and Human Services.

Minority Infant Mortality Reduction Project. To address the disproportionate number of African-American babies dying during their first year of life, this church based project is designed to improve the health of women and children one year of age or less by training respected congregation and community women to provide support, information, and practical assistance. Under the local leadership of the host churches, volunteers are recruited from the Northampton County area. Skill-building workshops are provided to enhance the services of volunteers and the ability of mothers to better fulfill their parental role. Local organizations, such as Cooperative Extension Service and the Health Department, partner in the provision of the training sessions and other project activities.

Approximately 50 pregnant women and/or mothers of children less than one year of age are provided ongoing services through the project. Services include "friendly" visits, educational workshops, mentoring, social support, advocacy, community resource awareness, assistance in accessing services, and transportation. Mothers, ranging in age from 13 – 42, are paired with congregational

women to facilitate the provision of the above services.

This initiative is under the local direction of Ms. Larée Cherry, Project Coordinator. Host churches are Roanoke Salem Baptist Church, Garysburg, Rev. Robert Sessoms, Pastor; Bethlehem Baptist Church, Seaboard, Rev. Purnell Edwards, Pastor; and Branches Chapel Baptist Church, Rev. Tony Flood, Pastor. MIMRP Facilitators are Ms. Lois Edmond, Ms. Joannette Neal, and Ms. Jean Sykes. The Program is also supported by the Northampton County Association, Rev. Robert Holloman, Moderator, and the Neuse River Association, Dr. C. C. Lawrence, Moderator. This project continues to link with men active with the prior Fatherhood Initiative.

Funding is provided by Women and Children's Health Section, Division of Public Health, NC Department of Health and Human Services.

Picture Me Tobacco Free. During this past year, the Health Ministry was funded by the NC Health and Wellness Trust Fund Commission to participate in a statewide campaign addressing tobacco use among youth. The project seeks to eliminate smoking initiation among participating youth; increase participating youths' skills and behavior for advocating smoking cessation among their peers and adult networks; and increase the youth and their support network's self-efficacy for being change agents within their communities for addressing tobacco issues. Youth between the ages of eleven and sixteen are being recruited and trained as members of Youth Action Teams (YATS) to become holistic health advocates within their local church and community.

Through the use of an approach called "photovoice", youth take photographs of how tobacco influences their communities, their loved ones and themselves. They then write captions for their photos describing the impact of tobacco and sponsor public exhibits of their work. The photo-exhibits, both within the church and in local public venues, become a catalyst for community dialogue about the influence of tobacco on communities and their youth. Central to the photovoice philosophy is the notion that dialogue about the underlying causes of health and social problems enables youth to understand the forces that hold these problems in place. The central objective of the Picture Me Tobacco Free process is to empower individuals to address tobacco's impact in their community.

REPORT - Cont'd on next page

Do You Hear What I Hear?

By Reverend Anthonette Wright
Recording Secretary/Vice Chairperson
Program Committee
GBSC Evangelism Ministry



Rev. Anthonette Wright

North Carolina, Inc. at Ebenezer Baptist Church and see what happened!

The Evangelism Ministry of the Convention is on fire for the Lord. Let's take you to Charlotte on October 27th - 29th to the annual session of the General Baptist State Convention of

Late Night preaching was preaching at its best. On Monday night, **Pastor Joseph R. Samuels** from St. Stephens Baptist Church in Winston-Salem, NC brought wisdom and old school preaching and started the late night fire burning. Then on Tuesday night, **Pastor James R. Woodson, II** of St. James Home of Fresh Fruit Church in Greensboro, NC added more wood to the fire. And finally on Wednesday night, **Pastor Claude R. Alexander** of University Park Baptist Church of Charlotte, NC took the whole house down as fire rained down from Heaven. Of course we could not leave Charlotte without reaching out to the young people. The Youth Evangelism Ministry took hold of the reigns and ushered the presence of the Lord into

the weekend. On Friday, October 31st instead of "fright night", it was "Hallelujah Night" at the Johnston YMCA. There were powerful workshops, praise and worship, evangelism, swimming, games, fun and much more. Pastor LaMont Johnson of Phillips Chapel Baptist Church in Winston-Salem preached the young folks happy with a powerful Word from the Lord. We praise God that over 150 Mecklenburg youth came out to witness the wonderful works of Christ and four gave their lives to the Lord. Praise God for the addition to the Kingdom.

This is just a taste of what the Lord has planned to do through the Evangelism Ministry. We look forward to greater and mighty works in the Lord.

Don't let anyone miss Heaven! **Announce the Kingdom of God and let the world know that Heaven is still in business.**

*But as it is written,
Eye hath not seen,
nor ear heard, nei-
ther have entered
into the heart of
man, the things
which God hath
prepared for them
that love him.*

I Corinthians 2:9

Richard H. Moore
State Treasurer

Dr. Archie Logan, Jr.
Executive Secretary-Treasurer
General Baptist State Convention

Dear Pastor,

The General Baptist State Convention joins Richard H. Moore, State Treasurer, in encouraging your Association and church to identify your unclaimed property. As your State Treasurer and Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the General Baptist State Convention, the two of us serve important roles in North Carolina. It is for this reason we want to make you aware of a program that may benefit both your church and its members.

The North Carolina Department of State Treasurer is responsible for administering the "Escheat and Unclaimed Property Program". The purpose of this program is simple; when a company or financial institution is holding money that belongs to a North Carolina resident and that individual cannot be located, the company is required by law to turn the money over to the Department of State Treasurer, where it is held until the rightful owner claims it. This "unclaimed cash" is often the result of forgotten utility deposits, bank accounts, stocks that were purchased, and checks that have not been cashed. Currently, the North Carolina Department of State Treasurer is holding over \$350 million in unclaimed cash that belongs to 1.4 million people and organizations.

It is important that as much of this money as possible gets returned to the rightful owners. In order to do that, we need your help. We hope that you can assist us in getting the word out about this program by letting your church members know it is there and making them aware of how they can check to see if they may be owed money.

The easiest way to find out if your name is on the Unclaimed Property list is to log onto the North Carolina Department of State Treasurer website at www.treasurer.state.nc.us. You then click on the "Unclaimed Property Program" link to get to a page where you can type in your name. We suggest not only checking your name with the proper spelling, but try variations on the spelling of your name, as well. Sometimes the reason money does not get to an individual is because the company sending it has the wrong address or incorrect spelling of the person's name.

It is also important to know that claiming your money through the Department of State Treasurer is completely free. You should be aware that there are services that DO charge a fee to locate any unclaimed funds that may be owed to you. It is not necessary to use these services or to pay a fee to have your money returned. You can claim your money directly from the Department of State Treasurer at no cost.

We believe sharing information regarding the "Unclaimed Property Program" with your church members is a valuable service. Not only will this information help your members to claim any money that they may be owed, but it will also be helpful to your communities as the word travels to relatives, friends and neighbors of your members. We also suggest you check the name of your church to see if money is owed to it. There are thousands of businesses and organizations that have unclaimed cash, and your church may be one of them.

We appreciate your assistance in helping us to make the citizens of North Carolina aware of this program, and look forward to working with you to return as much money as possible to your church members. The General Baptist Foundation is also available to assist you in locating your money at no cost; simply call the Foundation toll free, at 1-866-858-7847 or log on to the General Baptist State Convention's website at www.GBSC.org, then click on the [N.C. Department of State Treasurer](http://www.GBSC.org) link to access the "Unclaimed Property Program".

Sincerely,

Richard H. Moore
State Treasurer

Dr. Archie Logan, Jr.
Executive Secretary-Treasurer
General Baptist State Convention

REPORT - Cont'd from page 14

Ms. Toshia Davis is Project Coordinator. The Picture Me Tobacco Free project is in partnership with the State Laymen's League (Mr. John Gladden, President), other auxiliaries, associations, and churches of the Convention. The first implementation area includes churches in the Rowan Association/Triad area (Dr. Paul Lowe, Rowan Association Moderator, Dr. J. C. Harris, Executive Secretary-Treasurer, Dr. Clifton Bell, President of the Rowan Association Laymen's League).

Operation Senior Care. The Health Ministry seeks to mobilize a statewide task force to identify potential beneficiaries of NC Senior Care, a prescription assistance program, and assist seniors with the application process. This project is in partnership with the NC Office of Research, Demonstrations, and Rural Health Development; and GBSC churches and auxiliaries, including the Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention.

The immediate objective is to increase the number of eligible state residents enrolled in NC Senior Care towards the goal of improving health status. The structure also holds immediate and long-term significance in increasing key leaders' and others' knowledge of and ability to access available health care resources. Funding is provided by the NC Health and Wellness Trust Fund Committee.

It is anticipated that "Lessons Learned", materials and protocols

developed from the above projects will be diffused to other congregations and community groups. In addition to the more intense demonstration projects highlighted above, the office is continuously participating in lay and professional education initiatives to help congregations, communities, and health professionals reduce health disparities, improve the quality of life, and provide a bridge between the health care system, congregations and communities. Activities have been at local, regional, state, and national levels. The Ministry has also been active in the statewide distribution of educational and resource materials and regularly contributes to the **Baptist Informer**.

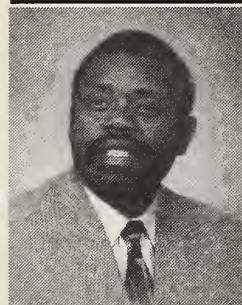
We are extremely thankful for the dedicated services of members of the Health and Human Services Committee: Rev. Cornelius Moore, Pastor, St. James Baptist Church, Rocky Mount, NC, Immediate Past-Chairperson; Dr. William Newkirk, Oak City Baptist Church, Raleigh, NC, Chairman; the Technical Advisory Committee; the Center for Health and Healing, Rev. Jeffrey Simms, Chairperson; Dr. John Hatch for his untiring advice and assistance; and Ms. Dora Moore, Office Manager.

We are also very grateful for the support provided by the GBSC officers (Dr. Charles Bullock, President, Dr. John Fuller, Immediate Past President, and the GBSC staff, Dr. Archie Logan, Executive Secretary-Treasurer.

Thought For The Month: "No Short Cuts to Life"

By Reverend Rickly L. Banks

Jesus knew that there are no short cuts to life's greater goals. At one time on his



Rev. Ricky Banks

journey from Judea to Galilee, "he must needs go through Samaria". This was a place that Jesus' countrymen avoided if they could. They did not like the Samaritans or anything associated with them. But for Jesus, crossing Samaria was a necessity.

Between us and our goals is always "Samaria" - a region to be crossed before we reach our destination. If life consists for us in the number of other

lives we share, the way is through personal contacts. Between loneliness and friendships lies this "Samaria".

There are no short cuts to character. We must pass through the region of temptation where decisions are made to acquire skill in living. Such things are sometimes painful, but necessary steps to character.

People who most helpfully share the sufferings of others have successfully passed through troubles of their own. Thinking of sightless men, a young soldier who had narrowly escaped blindness wrote that he now would give to those who care for the blind. He reached his decision by way of his "Samaria".

We once again thank God for your prayers and support to the Children's Home. The Home is doing well, the

transitional classroom project will go into effect in January 2004. The teachers of the project will be supplied from the Granville County School System. The Home will be in a fund raising effort called "providing a safety net for children" in the next few weeks to

come. Again please keep us in your prayers and remember the Home in your 2004 budget.

Please call if we can help your church or association in being a blessing to the Home (252) 335-5003 or (252) 339-3438.

Verse For The Month:
And he must needs go through Samaria.

John 4:4

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Shaw University Divinity School News

By Dr. J. T. Roberson, Jr.
Dean, Shaw University Divinity School

It gives me great pleasure to welcome Reverend Anthonette Wright, our newest team member to the Shaw University Divinity School family. Reverend Wright, an alumna of Shaw University Divinity School and former Director of

Church Relations for the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina Adoption and Foster Care Ministry joins the Shaw

University Divinity School staff as Program Manager for the Domestic Abuse and Violence Prevention (DAVP) Project replacing Reverend Rosalind Polston.

The Domestic Abuse and Violence Prevention (DAVP) Project is a North Carolina Governor's Crime Commission sponsored project, which utilizes faith-based training modules in addressing problems of domestic

abuse and violence in the African-American community. DAVP recognizes domestic abuse and violence as a serious issue. Because it is serious, Shaw University Divinity School, along with the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc. and other denominations from the Congress of National Black Churches, through DAVP are committed to raise the consciousness and awareness of this issue in the faith community.

Each year in the United States, millions of families suffer or are affected by domestic abuse and violence. The faith community is impacted by domestic abuse that occurs in the homes and the lives of members of many congregations. DAVP wants to help the faith community respond to violence and abuse in the family.

The program is committed to: train clergy and/or laity in recognizing camouflaged domestic abuse and violence in the pews; developing methods of prevention; developing sermons that will acknowledge and address domestic violence as a spiritual issue; exegeting scripture to produce new insight in the effective use of scriptures in the prevention of domestic abuse and violence and the development of bible study lessons around prevention.

It is critical for the faith community to recognize domestic abuse and violence as a serious issue as well as acknowledge the role it plays in addressing the problem that threatens the lives of so many families. We are prepared to come to your churches, associations and organizations to provide training and workshops in the area of domestic abuse and violence. Let

the Divinity School (DAVP) help you provide resources and referral information that could possibly save the life of someone in your congregation and community.

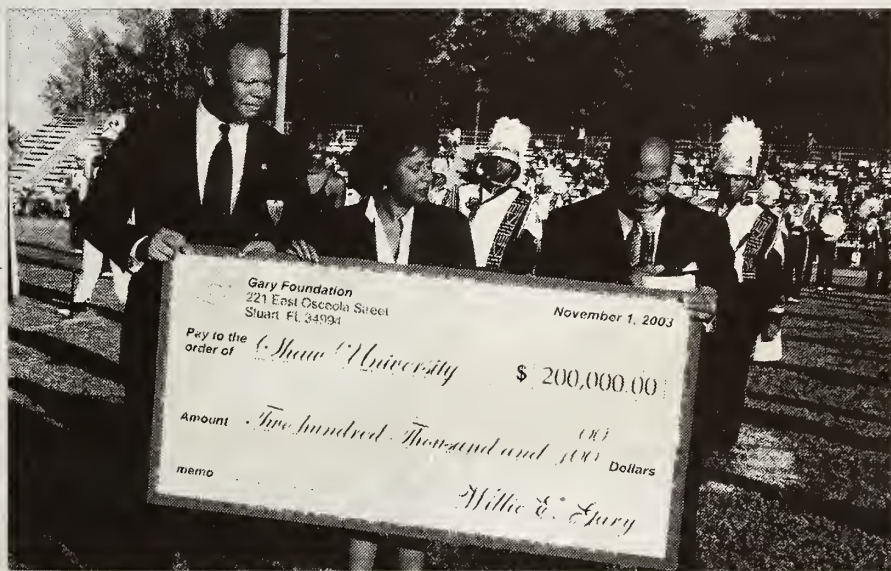
And I will make them and the pieces round about my hill a blessing; and I will cause the shower to come down in his season; there shall be showers of blessing. And the tree of the field shall yield her fruit, and the earth shall yield her increase, and they shall be safe in their land, and shall know that I (am) the LORD, when I have broken the bands of their yoke, and delivered them out of the hand of those that served themselves of them. And they shall no

more be a prey to the heathen, neither shall the beast of the land devour them; but they shall dwell safely, and none shall make (them) afraid. (Ezekiel 34:26-28.)

For more information please contact Reverend Anthonette Wright, Program Manager for DAVP at (919) 546-8570 or visit the web site at www.davp.org.



Dr. Leonzo Lynch



MBC Donates \$200,000

Prominent attorney and MBC Chairman and CEO Willie E. Gary recently announced a gift of \$200,000 to his alma mater Shaw University during the school's recent homecoming festivities in Raleigh, NC.

The money will be earmarked for athletic programs and academic scholarships. Gary made the announcement during his annual Alumni Luncheon, which featured appearances by the world renowned O'Jays, who were on hand to receive honorary degrees and the Willie E. Gary Making A Difference Award for their tireless work in helping to raise money for college scholarships throughout the years.

"It feels good that each year, Gloria and I find ourselves in a position to give back to the school that gave us an opportunity at a life together," Gary said. "If not for this school, we would not be where we are today. At a time when every other college I approached said they didn't have room for Willie Gary, Shaw University made room - waiving its \$10 application fee to give this sharecropper's son a chance at a better life...I would say that decision worked out pretty

well for all concerned - wouldn't you?"

Gary is best known for taking on and defeating some of America's most powerful corporations to the tune of billions of dollars. In 1995, Gary won a \$500 million verdict against a Canadian funeral home company. In 2000, he won a \$240 million verdict against the Disney Corp. after proving that the theme park giant stole its idea for a sports complex from his clients. And in 2001, Gary won a \$139 million verdict from Anheuser-Busch on behalf of the family of baseball great Roger Maris. Gary has also earned confidential settlements of \$205 million, \$185 million and \$175 million on behalf of his clients.

He is also chairman and CEO of Major Broadcasting Networks, the only African-American owned, 24-hour cable network, which features wholesome, family-oriented programming and is the nation's leading provider of live black college sports. MBC is available nationally in more than 34 million homes and Gary recently announced plans to launch "MBC News: The Urban Voice", the nation's first-ever, 24-hour news channel devoted entirely to African Americans. ■

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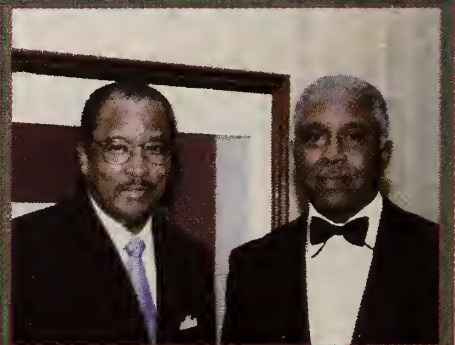
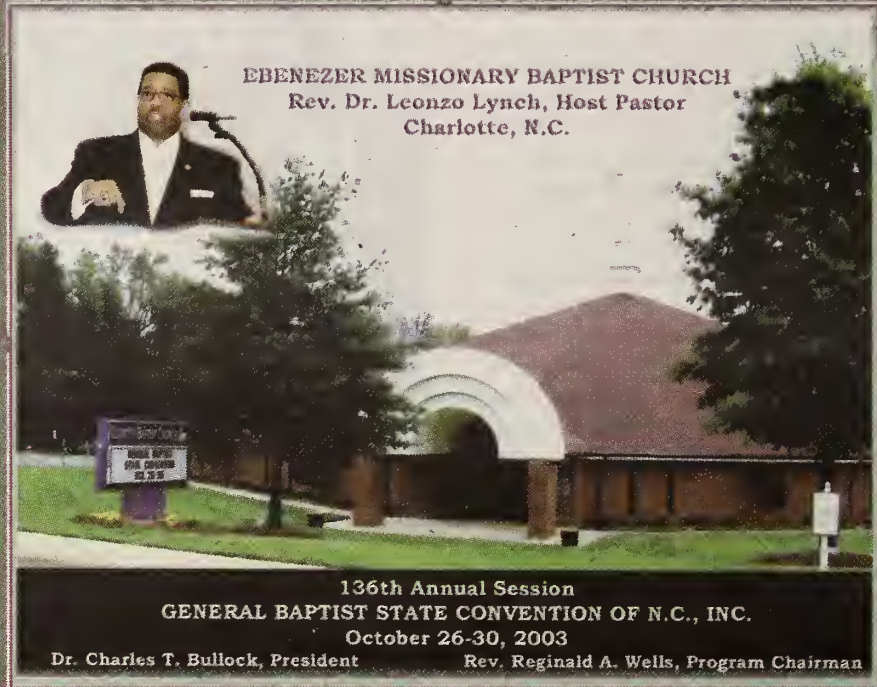
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A Perspective: 136th Annual Session of the GBSC of NC, Inc.

By Reverend Dr. Gloria Gerald,
Recording Secretary

From Sunday, October 25 through

Thursday, October 30, hundreds of General Baptist State Convention family members gathered in the "Queen City" (named after and by African-British Queen Charlotte) for



Rev. Dr. Gloria Gerald

the 136th Annual Session. The Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church family hosted the gathering – with support from other Mecklenburg County Baptist churches. Ebenezer's

pastor is Third Vice President Leonzo Lynch.

Traditionally, the Convention holds an almost two-day "pre" session prior to the "official" opening. Following is a litany of this year's "pre" session. Sunday – pre Convention musical rendered by local church choirs. Monday morning, afternoon and evening – devotional messages; sermon focusing on our four-year theme, *To Serve The Present Age* (Ephesians 4:11-12), and classes: *Church Administration/Finances*, *Church History*, *Computer Technology*, *Discipleship Training for Church Growth*, *Interim Pastor/Supply Pastor/Search Committee*, and *Shaw University Divinity School Curriculum*. Monday evening – welcome and local program; opening

SESSION - Cont'd on next page

Convention sermon (*How to Have Church Upstairs*, Acts 1:13) proclaimed by Dr. Jesse V. Bottoms, pastor of the Beulah Baptist Church, Poughkeepsie, NY; and late night evangelism service of worship. Tuesday morning and afternoon – devotional messages; highlights from Shaw Divinity School, and Health and Human Services; and a presentation from Attorney Kenneth Lewis of Durham that addressed issues concerning the disparity between NC government contracting with African American-owned businesses and European American-owned businesses.

I have always found this “pre” official opening custom most interesting since much of what occurred could be considered “official” information aided by a considerable amount of inspiration as the above litany indicates.

On Tuesday, the 27th at 2:39 p.m., our President, Dr. Charles T. Bullock thanked God and declared the 136th Annual Session “open in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost”. His pronouncement was followed by greetings from Governor Michael Easley, who, among other things, thanked the Convention for outreach ministry during Hurricanes Floyd and Isabelle, and emphasized the need to continually upgrade the quality of education for our children and youth.

There were also greetings from auxiliary heads and the Ministers’ Council, and the 136th Year Opening Sermon (*What Will It Take for You to Believe*, Mark 16:9-14) by Reverend Patrick Chesson, pastor of Zion Baptist in Reidsville. We do take note that there was an *Opening Convention Sermon* by the guest preacher during the “pre” session.

The “official” opening cleared the way for the business session which consisted of reports on the 2003-2004 Budget, Convention, *Baptist Informer*, Women’s Convention and special committees: Baptist Student Union, General Baptist Foundation, Inc., Health and Human Services, and Housing and Disaster Relief along with an update from Christian Education Coordinator Portia Brandon.

The days ahead included updates from the vice presidents, Unified Program (comprised of Children’s Home, Lott Carey Convention, Inc., Shaw University and Divinity School and State Missions), Discipleship

Curriculum, Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission, and Voter Education/Political Action. There was also a continuation of classes, praise and worship devotional messages, sermons and evangelism late night services of worship.

Along with the Convention’s opening sermons, there were several other keynote sermons. Moderator Lafayette Maxwell of the New Hope Missionary Baptist Association delivered a message on the 136th Annual Session Theme. His subject, *Recapturing the Spirit of the New Testament Church*, was taken from Ephesians 4:5-6. Reverend Carl E. Brinkley, pastor of Mount Olive Baptist Church in Fayetteville and host of the 135th Annual Session, delivered the 136th Convention Sermon (*Who Do They Say We Are?* Matthew 16:13-20). Reverend Brinkley’s mass choir and other church members accompanied him.

Other sermons, which included devotional messages, were delivered by moderators from the Charlotte/Mecklenburg area and several clergy from areas beyond.

Have you ever wondered what a gathering like our Convention would be without the presence of politicians during an upcoming election? The 136th Session will not provide an answer. On the other hand, it is important to have politicians in the midst since our condition of existence/our how, how much, what, when, where, why and who gets and who gets got as it were, are determined by politics and politicians. Lieutenant Governor Beverly Eaves Perdue, Attorney General Roy Cooper, Superior Court Judge G. J. Butterfield, former General Assembly Speaker Dan Blue and Ernest Bowles were among those present.

There were three new additions to this year’s session: (1) daily “praise and worship” services that included a devotional message; (2) a memorial – reflection and prayer on Convention family members who were with us this time last year and are now listed in the sweet communion of saints above; and (3) a brief overview of each class

offered during the Session. The overview enables delegates/messengers to make informed decisions prior to selecting a class.

To my dismay, sessions in every mid-year and annual gathering have a way of being called to order fifteen to thirty minutes after the appointed time. It is as if many of us, leadership included, forget that the Holy Other is still *redeeming the time* (Ephesians 5:16a). As such, we are also called to be good stewards of the seconds, minutes and hours we have been given to *serve this present age*. Several presenters disregarded time allocated to them and thereby encroached upon other presenters’ time, and also made it

impossible for some messengers to stay for the conclusion of some sessions. It is one thing to give way to the movement of the Spirit of the Living God and another to give way to our individual spirits. Nevertheless, there was a bright side. For the first time, each beginning session, whether morning, afternoon or evening started on time. This was due to the stewardship of time exercised by Program

Chairperson Reginald Wells who served during his own watch and during the absence of other presidors, along with the good time stewardship of Vice Presidents Nilous Avery, II, Ricky Banks and Howard Parker when they were scheduled to preside.

A Convention highlight was the President’s Banquet held on Tuesday evening at the Hilton University Hotel. Convention family members and friends had an opportunity to discard the apparel of the mundane and adorn themselves in formal and semi-formal evening attire. The evening was filled with laughter, genteel conversation, music, special recognition of family members, and an address/sermon from Dr. Julius R. Scruggs, pastor of First Missionary Baptist Church in Huntsville, Alabama, and Vice President of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. His message, *How to Handle/Master Giants*, was

taken from selected verses of I Samuel 17. The Convention presented plaques to immediate past president John D. Fuller, Sr., Executive Secretary-Treasurer C. C. Craig, Mr. Waverly Camp, Moderator Andre Carr, Mrs. Laree Cherry, Reverend Georgia Guest, Reverend John Hatch, Mrs. Lorraine McLeod, Mr. Jarvis Morgan, Moderator W. K. Raynor and Women’s Convention past president Mrs. Maggie White. Dr. Bottoms also presented a plaque to past president Fuller for the Convention’s overwhelming support during the September 11th terrorist attack.

On Thursday morning, President Bullock delivered his annual address. After musical offerings by the Martin Street choir, the President thanked those gathered for prayers offered up on his and the Convention’s behalf; announced a January 9th call meeting that is open to all Convention members; asked all churches, pastors and moderators for continual commitment, prayers and support; declared that some changes are in process that will enable the Convention to move forward with the help of God, and assured everyone that God is on our side and will continue to be with us as long as we walk together.

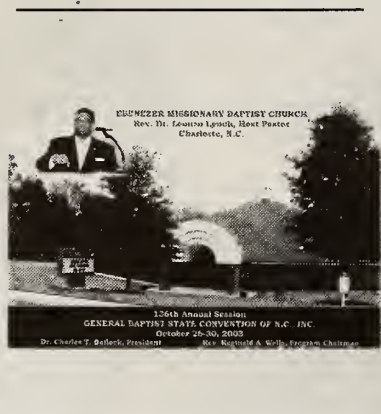
A part of any Baptist president’s address is a sermon. President Bullock’s sermon, *Wrestling With God*, came from Genesis 32:24-29, and dealt with Jacob’s wrestling with a stranger at night and our individual and collective wrestling. The President reminded us that it is impossible to encounter God and remain the same. He asked us to look back and count some of our individual and collective blessings. Noting that we have come a long way, he also challenged the Convention to keep wrestling in the midst of struggles and never let go of God because it is God who blesses, keeps and guides us as we press to *serve the present age*.

After announcing an on-site financial intake of \$111,914.64, the President declared the 136th Annual Session closed at 1:12 p.m. “in the name of the father, son and Holy Ghost.

In spite of the fact that some sessions were cramped with activity, and that some of us need to practice better stewardship of God’s time, and a few others need to let go of personal agendas in the corporate setting, GBSC’s 136th Annual Session helped equip messengers and visitors in their God-given call to *serve the present age*.

...To Serve The Present Age

(Ephesians 4:11-12)



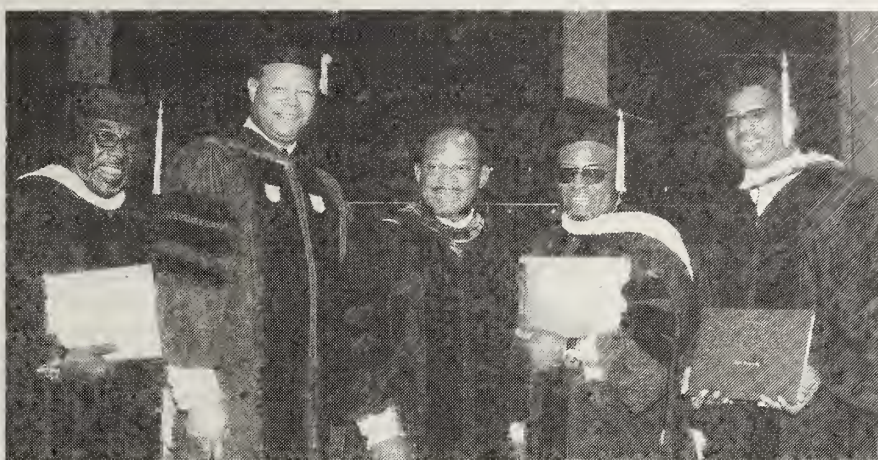
Legendary O'Jays Receive Honorary Degrees

MBC Chairman and CEO Willie E. Gary and Shaw University President Dr. Clarence Newsome have awarded honorary degrees to the legendary musical group The O'Jays for their tireless work raising money for scholarships on behalf of at-risk students who wish to receive a college education.

The group – Walter Williams, Eddie Levert and Eric Nolan Grant – then displayed exactly why they were honored, by awarding 10 Dell computers to Shaw University students who attended the school's Fall Convocation ceremony last weekend.

The O'Jays also announced plans to partner with actor, director and producer Robert Townsend and Gary to bring the O'Jays life story to the big screen during the Willie Gary Alumni Homecoming Reception at which time the trio was honored with the Willie E. Gary "Making A Difference Award", for their contributions to helping young people go to college.

"I am so looking forward to working with Robert Townsend and The O'Jays



to get their story onto the big screen," said Gary, who is president of Shaw University's Board of Trustees. "Their story of hard work and perseverance is an inspirational story that needs to be told. Eddie, Walter and now Eric have been making a difference in people's lives for quite some time and it is only fitting that we join forces with a Hollywood veteran such as Robert Townsend, who has a fond appreciation for what these legendary performers had

to endure to achieve success and get where they are today."

Gary, who has overcome a lifetime of obstacles to become one of this nation's most successful trial attorneys, is known in legal circles as The Giant Killer. He is best known for taking on some of America's most powerful corporations on behalf of his clients. In 1995, he won a \$500 million verdict against a Canadian funeral home company. In 2000, he won a \$240 million verdict

against Disney when a jury found the theme park giant stole the idea for its sports complex from Gary's clients. In 2001, a jury awarded Gary a \$139 million verdict against Anheuser-Busch on behalf of the family of baseball great Roger Maris. In addition, Gary has negotiated settlements of \$205 million, \$185 million and \$175 million on behalf of his clients. He is also chairman and CEO of the Major Broadcasting Cable Network (MBC), the nation's only African American owned and operated 24-hour cable television network, as well as MBC News, a cable news network devoted to African American news and issues. Gary and his wife, Dr. Gloria R. Gary, are also well known for their philanthropic endeavors. In 1994, they founded The Gary Foundation to provide college scholarships and other resources to at-risk students. Since then, the Garys have donated millions of dollars to Historically Black Colleges and Universities – including an astounding \$10 million to their alma mater Shaw University in Raleigh, NC in 1991. ■

CONSUMER AWARENESS

Confused about the Do Not Call Registry? North Carolina law protects you

By Attorney General Roy Cooper

There has been a lot of confusion recently about the Do Not Call Registry. You may have heard about telemarketers' legal challenges and judges' rulings that have the national Registry tied up in court. Regardless of the outcome of those lawsuits, North Carolina has its own Do Not Call law and I plan to enforce it.

Telemarketers' sales pitches are all too familiar to most of us. They call to convince us that now would be the perfect time to change our long distance plan or order replacement windows for our home. And they seem to have an uncanny knack for calling just as we're sitting down to dinner with our family. No matter what they are selling or when they call, telemarketers' calls can be annoying and disruptive.

To guard our privacy and stop our phones from ringing off the hook with unwanted calls, I worked for over two years to provide protection for North Carolinians. This past summer, the state legislature finally passed our own Do Not Call law, designed to work hand-in-hand with the national Registry also launched this summer.

North Carolinians have jumped at

the chance to choose who calls them at home, placing more than 1.6 million North Carolina numbers on the Registry since it began in July. These consumers and millions like them across the country have stated loudly and clearly that they want telemarketers to leave them alone.

Unfortunately, the telemarketing industry will stop at nothing to be able to keep calling people who do not want to be called. Just as we expected, they're doing everything they can to dismantle the national Registry.

I need your help to make our state Do Not Call law effective. My message to North Carolina consumers is tell us if the telemarketers call you. If you've placed your number on the Do Not Call Registry and a telemarketer calls you: Ask the telemarketer for the company's name and phone number. You'll need at least one of these pieces of information to file a Do Not Call complaint. Report the telemarketer by calling 1-877-5-NO-SCAM toll-free within the state or going to www.nocallsnc.com to fill out a Do Not Call complaint. If you have placed your number on the list on or before August 31, you can report telemarketers who call you now. If you signed up since August 31, you

can file a complaint once your number has been listed for three months. And if you haven't joined the Do Not Call Registry yet, don't despair. Thanks to a recent court decision, consumers can sign up for the Registry again as of October 9. To add your home and mobile telephone numbers to the list, go to www.nocallsnc.com or call 1-888-382-1222 within North Carolina from

the number you wish to register.

Attorney General Roy Cooper and his staff want to help North Carolinians protect their privacy and their money. We are here to be of service when you need us, but through consumer education efforts like these columns we hope to help consumers avoid problems from the start. ■

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Bazzel Creek Missionary Baptist Church Installs New Pastor

Installation services were held for Reverend Dr. Robert Antonio Horne on Sunday, November 9, 2003 at Bazzel Creek Missionary Baptist Church in Fuquay-Varina, North Carolina. The 137-year old church installed Dr. Horne as its new pastor. Hundreds of well-wishers and Christian friends from near and far filled the church sanctuary and the dining hall to witness this wonderful occasion.

Reverend Dr. Kenneth Ray Hammond, pastor of Union Baptist Church in Durham, was the installation speaker. Dr. Hammond stirred the congregation with his powerful message "Where Do We Go From Here?" The music was provided by the Union Baptist Church Choirs.

Reverend Dr. Robert Antonio Horne

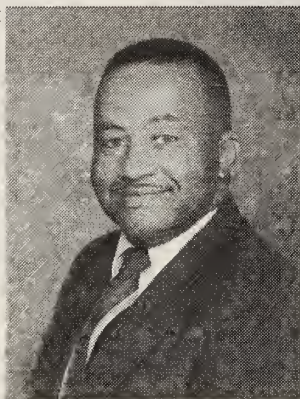
Reverend Dr. Robert Antonio Horne was born September 3, 1961, in Greensboro, North Carolina. He is a native North Carolinian who is tenacious in his mission and believes that Christians should commit to their vision.

He earned his high school diploma from Page High School in Greensboro in 1979. Upon completion of high school, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps Reserve and completed basic training at Parris Island, South Carolina. Upon completion of basic training, he enrolled at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University in Tallahassee, Florida, where he earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Political Science and Psychology.

Upon graduation from college, Dr. Horne was commissioned as an officer in the United States Marine Corps, where he served as executive officer supervising and developing communications centers in Japan, Australia, Malaysia, Thailand, Korea, Philippine Islands, Singapore, and the Far East. There he managed a six million dollar budget.

Dr. Horne has worked in various forms of full-time ministry for 12 years. He has worked as a pastor, an interim pastor, a director within an urban ministry, a Christian educator, a church mediator, an arbitrator, a representative for state and national Baptist conventions, and as a seminary professor. For the past eight years, he has worked full-time as Minister of Christian Education and Associate Minister of Union Baptist Church in Durham, North Carolina. He also served as Pastor of St. Mark Church

in Greensboro, North Carolina, from 1991-1994 where he established various



Rev. Dr. Robert Antonio Horne

ministries, including programs that evangelized and fed the homeless. Dr. Horne served the Greensboro Urban Ministry where he became director of Clothing Bank and Assistant Director of the Emergency Assistance Program, where he managed a 500,000 dollar budget and assistance

grew from 13,000 to 20,000 individuals a year.

For the last five years, he has worked for the General Baptist State Convention as its field worker and its primary trainer, assisting hundreds of churches in the Mid-Atlantic States and across the country in starting, developing, or improving their educational and congregational ministries. He has also conducted Christian Education Seminars and workshops. Dr. Horne supervises and coordinates programs regarding issue resolutions and counseling for churches in turmoil for various religious organizations throughout the United States.

Dr. Horne believes in strong Bible-based teaching ministries. Seven years ago, he formed and incorporated Ekklesia Ministry Incorporated. His sole purpose for founding Ekklesia Ministry was to help churches design educational components and/or facilitate the growth of educational components within the church.

Dr. Horne received his Masters of Divinity Degree from Duke University in Durham, North Carolina, and his Bachelor of Science Degree in Political Science and Psychology from Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University of Tallahassee, Florida. He has additional graduate studies in Public Administration and Budgeting from North Carolina Central University in Durham, and in Counseling from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

Dr. Horne received an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from the Apex School of Theology, which is now located in Durham. He was awarded the honorary degree for assisting in the establishment of new churches; for creating educational ministries; for training ministers in rural North Carolina communities; and for leading, coordinating, and directing the work, which led to the national accreditation of the Apex School of Theology.

Pastor Horne has served as Professor

of Biblical Studies at Apex Academy School of Religion, Apex, North Carolina, and Professor of Religion at United Christian Bible Institute, Durham, North Carolina.

Dr. Horne has a tremendous amount of community involvement. Among the numerous organizations with which he is affiliated, his membership in the Eagle Scouts Association, Boy Scouts of America stands toward the top of the list of favorites. He attributes much of his success in life to his involvement in this organization.

Pastor Horne comes to Bazzel Creek Missionary Baptist Church as a gifted teacher, preacher, and counselor. He has strong theological beliefs and practices, and has demonstrated that he is a capable church leader, administrator, and motivator.

Since coming to Bazzel Creek, Pastor Horne has begun implementation of the Church organization seminar. He outlines the purpose of the church, the place for Evangelism, Stewardship, and Missions. He also teaches the Principles of Baptist Policy, that all programs in the church should be for the glorification of Christ, about saving souls, about spiritual growth, and that the church must have order.

Pastor Horne holds his family very dear to him, his wife, Mrs. Stacey Horne, his mother, Reverend Sadie Orrell, his sister, Mrs. Barbara Artis, his brother-in-law, Ted Artis, and his niece, Jenai Artis.

The Bazzel Creek Missionary Baptist Church family is truly blessed to have received Dr. Horne as their new pastor.

London Missionary Baptist Church has newly elected pastor

London Missionary Baptist Church, Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina is happy to announce and welcome our newly elected pastor and first lady.

Our church will begin its 53rd year with Rev. Elbert Earl Lee, a native of Bertie County, Windsor, NC as our pastor. Pastor Lee is a graduate of Bertie Senior High School. He attended Fayetteville State University, Shaw University (C.A.P.E. of Ahoskie), and Martin Community College of Williamston, NC. He is a graduate of Roanoke Theological Seminary, Elizabeth City, NC where he received his Bachelor of Divinity degree.

He is married to the former Bernice Heller and is the father of four children – Janea, Stephen, Deitrik, and Darylyn and has five grandchildren.

Rev. Lee is a past moderator of West Roanoke Missionary Baptist Association, past chairperson of Evangelism within the WRMBA District, past chairperson of Prison Ministry appointed by the North Carolina General Baptist State Convention, past member of Hertford

County Progressive Ministers Council and past chairperson of Religious Affairs of the NAACP, Hertford County Chapter.

He is currently employed with Hertford County Schools and a former employee of Newport News Shipyard, Newport News, VA (1978-1994). He is a member of the Sandy Point Missionary



Rev. & Mrs. Elbert E. Lee

Baptist Church, Windsor, NC. He was licensed to preach in 1978 by the church, and ordained by the West Roanoke Missionary Baptist Association in 1981.

He is the former pastor of Beacon Light Missionary Baptist Church and Saint Luke Missionary Baptist Church, both of Windsor,

NC, and Zion Grove Missionary Baptist Church of Aulander, NC, where he pastored 18 years. He is currently serving as pastor on first and third Sundays at Chapel Grove Missionary Baptist Church, Garysburg, NC.

He delivered his first message as pastor of London Missionary Baptist Church on September 14, 2003.

Again, we are happy to welcome Rev. Elbert Earl Lee and First Lady Mrs. Lee to our church family.

By Reverend D. S. Briggs

Platform #2 - The Music

We are plunging ahead prayerfully and physically into transforming our church into a vibrant atmosphere of expectancy. Our churches are places where lives are radically transformed by the power of Almighty God. Where unbelievers become believers, believers become disciples and disciples go out as servants to reach and transform other unbelievers. No one should be able to come to your church and leave the same way that they came. Certainly, if we are proclaiming a God that will bring order out of the chaos in our life to the unbeliever and asking them to come to our church and "check" us out, the least we could do is make sure the house is in order when they come.

We have now addressed our building concerns. Now it looks like someone actually cares about the church. Fresh paint, clean windows, bright lights and cobwebs cleaned off of the Church Covenant and Ten Commandment posters hanging in the Sanctuary. Broken light cover plates and receptacle covers have been replaced. All entrances and exits are clearly marked and easily accessible. Everything is in order or has a maintenance action item that will be completed.

While just accomplishing this task for many churches would truly be considered a "miracle" from God, we must not stop there. No matter how good the outside looks, it is what is on the inside that truly matters. There is nothing worse than discovering that what is on the inside did not live up to what was presented on the outside. We have brought the unbeliever to our doors. Now let us look at what will be the next thing to have a major impact on them.

The next area we desire to focus on is the platform of music. Many preachers and pastors based on the pain of their personal experience liken the choir room to a war room. Regardless of the shape it is in, many pastors find it adds quantifiable length and breadth to their days to avoid touching the music department. Better to challenge tradition by putting women on the Deacon's Ministry or giving a license to a child to preach than to address the panoply of problems that emanate from the church choir loft. For too many of our churches this in and of itself is a call to holy war that will take no prisoners. Choirs of all different generations and locations not only aggressively protect their so called musical turf or style but seek to infiltrate, intimidate, and indoctrinate other choirs to sing just like them. Therefore, they will eventually end up singing the same exact songs, the exact same way and often consist of the same exact members.

How many churches have three different Senior Choirs, two different Youth Choirs, and two different Men's groups or Women's Choir? Quite often it is not because they have so many members and more than one choir is necessary to give everyone who desires to sing a chance, but because everyone wants to do their

own thing. So we form a second or third choir that will be different yet present the exact same songs and style as another choir in the church. "Instead of singing this song this way, the way _____ choir sings it" they say, "we will transpose it and do it this way. This will be our very own special selection and they don't have the voices to do it like this."

Tragically, there are those churches that have numerous choirs who do wonderfully as long as they are the only star that is shining. If the pastor, minister of music, director, musician or a choir president endeavors to bring their gifts together as one unit for a special project or program, you will have declared war. Either they will not show at all or you will get only token support from each choir thereby minimizing the effect of what you are trying to accomplish. This spirit of isolationism masked as protecting an individual choir's identity keeps us from working together to serve this present age.

Then there are those who feel they "own" certain songs, therefore they are the only person in the church that is allowed to sing it. Sadly, I have witnessed a visiting choir come into a church, sing a person's so-called song and the person would get up from the floor and literally drown out the soloist on the visiting choir on the song saying they got "happy!" Musicians who in word or deed make it known that if it was not for them, the choir would be nothing. Pastors who are blessed with the gift of song are not immune from this, often singing the lead on every other song whether invited or not. They do this not because they have to, but because they believe that they are the only ones that can make the song come out right. Instead of displaying unity and harmony, encouraging each individual member to cultivate their own gifts and collectively bring them to the song table for the glory of God, we are caught up into providing entertainment masquerading as a spiritual service. Showmanship becomes more important

than the submission of lives to the will of God.

If you are the show at your church, please change the channel!

If we as believers can see and feel this discord, then what makes us think that an unbeliever could not?

What should be a ministry to point us and bring us closer to God too often becomes an in-house competition. The judges (mem-

bers and regular attendees) vote on a weekly basis as to which choir is truly "blessing them". Weekly attendance and finances often rise and fall depending on which choir is singing. Sometimes the Pastor unknowingly casts his or her vote by which choir they choose to take with them on outside engagements the most. This of course is the pastor's prerogative, but somehow we use the loophole

of "perceived favoritism" to make it wrong. Offended or ignored choir members pout that the Pastor is picking a favorite and subtly saying that the other choirs "cannot sing". "How can this be if the Pastor is to treat everybody equally and fairly?" they say. Even if the Pastor regularly rotates the choirs they take with them, you better believe that someone is counting up to see if he/she is favoring one choir more than the others.

If we as believers can see and feel this discord, then what makes us think that an unbeliever could not? Would you wish to join a fellowship like what has been described? Discord needs no announcement to declare its presence. Just a look upon a choir's or congregation's collective face tells the whole story without saying a word.

How can we fix this? Can we fix it? Stay Tuned! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (919) 688-3093 or stayblessed@consultant.com. Have a Blessed Holy-Day season.

BAPTIST INFORMER

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A Historical and Theological Perspective on Evangelism

By Rev. Grace Clay

Evangelicalism has a historical and theological meaning. Theology begins with a focal of the sovereignty of God. God is the transcendent, personal, infinite being who has created the heaven, earth and all living things. God is a Holy God who is full of love and compassion for the sinner and wants them to be saved so much that God gave his son Jesus Christ to die for our sins. God actively identifies with the sufferings of his people, and is accessible to us through prayer. God brings our wills into conformity with God's will.

Evangelicals regard Scripture as the divinely inspired record of God's revelation, the infallible, the Holy authoritative guides for faith and practice. We believe that the Holy Spirit has given revelation to various authors to write about matters in their respective places and time. The guidance and illumination of the Holy Spirit is required to bring out the divine meaning imbedded in the text. The Holy Spirit shows us how to apply the word of God to our lives. Some deny the Enlightenment doctrine of human's innate goodness. The evangelicals believe in the total depravity of humanity. All the goodness is tainted by the sins of humans. Humanity was created perfect, but through the fall, sin entered the race, causing humans to become corrupt to the core of their being. This spirit inspection has been passed on from generation to generation. Sin is not an inherent weakness or ignorance but positive rebellion against God's Laws. Sin is moral and spiritual blindness. The root of all sin is unbelief, which can cause a moral and spiritual bondage beyond the sinner's control. The root of sin begins on manifestations of pride, lust for power, sensuousness, selfishness, fear, and disdain for spiritual things. The will to sin is within a human at birth. The powers of sin cannot be broken by human effort. The powers can only be broken by the interaction with God and the Holy Spirit. Without the connection with God and the Holy Spirit the ultimate result is complete and permanent separation from the presence of God.

Jesus Christ the Son of God assumed the penalty of death on humanity's behalf. Christ made atonement for sin on Calvary's cross by shedding His blood for humanity. Jesus redeemed humanity from the power of spiritual death by dying in our place. Jesus defeated the power of darkness. Jesus triumphed over death and hell, thus demonstrating the supremacy of divine power in a sin-cursed world. The foundation was laid for the eventual redemp-

tion of all creation from sin's corrupting influence. The atonement was affirmed as people are to bear witness for each other, by following the Lord's example of discipleship, by uplifting the burdens, sufferings, and needs of others.

Evangelicals believe in unmerited divine grace received through faith in Jesus Christ. This is a gift from God, not through any kind of penance or good works. The guilt of sin is removed immediately. The inward process of sanctification brings about renewing and change as one lives the Christian life. The believer is saved by grace and empowered to live a life of service.

The communicating of the Word of God is an important feature of evangelicalism. The written Word of God is the basis for the preached word. The process of holy living should be a part of our witness to others. Holiness involves not withdrawal from the world and detaching oneself from evil but rather boldly confronting evil and overcoming its effects both personally and socially. The works of God's mercy is as important as preaching in bringing people into the kingdom of God.

Evangelicals look for the visible return of Jesus Christ to set up God's kingdom of righteousness, a new heaven and earth, one that will never end. This is a blessed hope for which all Christians long. The return of Christ will consummate the judgement upon the world and the salvation of the faithful.

Last but not least, evangelism is more than orthodox dogma or reactionary's return to past ways. Today, evangelism is different than it has been in the past. Most people in today's society because of a great generation change of unchurched people call for illustrations of true Biblical examples. The person's question becomes, how will this work for me today? The stories within evangelism need to be presented in ways that can be applied to people's lives today. People want to hear how God is present within their current life and what will change. It is the affirmation of the central beliefs of historic Christianity.¹

Evangelism and Theology Complement Each Other

The leading evangelist of each generation has considered theology a help rather than a hindrance. Paul was a mighty theologian. Paul, through his letters to the people of the church tried to present Christianity in its doctrinal expressions. God poured through Paul's mind doctrines that became mighty material in the hands of Augustine and Calvin. Paul's thinking ability and profound theological grasp did not circumscribe his evangelistic fervor. Paul was a

great evangelist, and it was theology that formed the basis of his powerful message. Paul pressed hard to adequately present Christ to a confused world.

Also, Augustine was a great theologian. Augustine formulated the theology which Luther and his contemporaries so effectively used many centuries later in the Reformation. Augustine was an effective evangelist. Augustine did not use the methods of modern evangelists. He did not use the methods of modern local churches, nor did he conduct a single citywide campaign; yet he formulated the revealed truth of Christianity into convicting and burning expressions which moved men and women toward God. Evangelism will never be able to pay its debt to these two great theologians.²

There were many, for example Jonathan Edwards the greatest Christian scholar in America.³ In the first half of the eighteenth century, Edwards was an outstanding theologian. He was recognized as an authority in theology, both in America and England. History records that the Great Awakening had its beginning in Jonathan Edwards's church in 1734. He was one of the three leading evangelists in the Awakening which turned the colonies back to God. Whitefield and Gilbert Tennent were also followers of Calvin.

Later the hyper-Calvinists came into position and almost smothered the flame of evangelism. Next Charles G. Finney was the most effective evangelist of his generation. His great knowledge of theology greatly enhanced his messages. Theology often produces revival, and revival greatly strengthens theology. Finney held that revival is not a miracle. I believe that the power of the Holy Spirit is beyond the ordinary powers of nature. We believe that prayer is the key to revival!⁴ As an evangelist we must confront the lost world with evangelical truth and compel them to give their life to God. The truth must be defined and made meaningful. At this point the evangelist is dependent upon theology. If the message is unrelated, confused, or vague, it will fail to gain the attention and respect of the listening world.

Evangelism is the living expression of doctrinal theology. Evangelism is founded upon the total meaning of the Christian faith. We must make sure that our evangelism does not draw upon a bag of clever tricks. It must draw upon the very truth, by which the church lives and moves and has its being.⁵

Theology is to evangelism, what the skeleton is to the body. Remove the

skeleton and the body becomes a helpless quivering mass of jell-like substance. By means of the skeleton the body can stand erect and move. The great system of theological truths forms the skeleton, which enables our revealed religion to stand.⁶

First aim of evangelism is to confront the world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The second aim of evangelism is to secure clear and definite truths to lead converts to accept Jesus Christ as Saviour. A knowledge of theology helps to make our gospel message plain. The great doctrines, such as those of regeneration the awaking, repentance, the acknowledgement of sin, faith, the appropriation, justification the application, and sanctification the activation of salvation through Jesus Christ, the resurrection, and others make up our theology.

Inadequate Theology curbs evangelism. There are several intellectual deflections, which have affected the theology of evangelism over the last fifty years. They are humanism and naturalistic psychology. These two doctrines undermine the main thrust of evangelism.

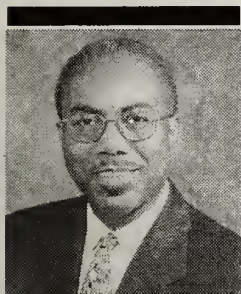
Humanistic theology is inadequate because it neglects the evidence of God's Self-relation. Theistic naturalism believes in the reality of God but denies the existence of a personal God. God is no more than the behavior of the universe.⁷ The theistic naturalist denies the supernatural. Their limited conception of God leads to such a conclusion. Anyone who believes in a personal God will have no difficulty accepting the supernatural. "Supernaturalism is no mere recrudescence of prescientific lore."⁸ There is a place for religious psychology, but the purpose of religious psychology is not to explain conversion. Conversion is the work of the Holy Spirit. Humanism depersonalized God and robs us of the power of God. A preacher must feel that he or she is an instrument in the hands of God and under the guidance of the Supreme Being, or he will be spiritually impotent.⁹

We shall make two more vital points about evangelism, we must discuss sin and salvation. The term salvation is the initial experience of the sinner's deliverance from the dominion of sin. Redemption comes from God. It never originates with man. Man must want the salvation and accept it on God's terms. Through salvation the reign of Satan is broken and Christ comes to rule in the life. Jesus comes in to fill the life with

EVANGELISM, cont. page 25

"Legal Issues Confronting Churches"

By Dr. James W. Smith,
Chairperson
Legal/Constitution Committee



Dr. James W.
Smith

Some months ago, I wrote an article that raised a number of issues that our churches are dealing with on a regular basis. I wish to raise these issues again for the benefit of our churches. Many times we are not conscious of these issues and often proceed with business as usual until we run into trouble.

When is the last time your church had a fire drill and does the church have large exit signs displayed? On this issue, the church may want to check with the fire department or public safety to ascertain

what the church needs to do. Are caution and warning signs posted at the church in places where members and the general public may be exposed to a present danger? It is very important to inform members and the general public of places and matters that may be of danger to them. Failure to do so could subject the church to liability. Are staff members and employees of the church performing their duties in ways that will not constitute negligence? The church needs to know that failure of staff or employees to do something that should be done or doing something that should not be done may constitute negligence. If an employee or staff member of the church is deemed to be negligent, then his/her action may be imputed to the church and such negligence may result in the church being liable, financially. A legal workshop involving dos and don'ts of the staff and employees may be helpful to the church. Is the pastor aware of his/her professional, ministerial and ethical responsibilities

and duties to his/her parishioners? The pastorate is just like a doctor/patient or a lawyer/client relationship. It is a pastor/pew relationship. Please be aware that whatever is told to the pastor in confidence must go with him/her to the grave unless permission is given to divulge the information. There are many instances where improper counseling or bad advice has resulted in the pastor and church being liable. The pastor needs to know when matters are beyond his/her capabilities. Making referrals when necessary is always good.

Does the church have any guidelines or personnel policy in place to deal with personnel matters? It would be helpful for the church to have something in place that would speak to personnel problems. A procedure for handling grievances is always helpful.

Is the church incorporated? There are no requirements in North Carolina for a church to be incorporated; however, it may be wise to get some legal advice on

the advantages and/or disadvantages of incorporation. Regarding issues of liability, the church and membership may be affected.

Does the church keep good financial and tax records? If the church is issuing checks for the payment of services rendered as an employee or independent contractor, you need to ascertain the tax obligations and responsibilities. These are just a few issues that may have legal consequences for the pastor and church. It is my hope and desire that you consider them.

If I can be of service to you, please do not hesitate to contact me.

**Dr. James W. Smith, Chairperson
Legal/Constitution Committee
General Baptist State Convention of
NC, Inc.**

**146 Presidents Drive
Durham, North Carolina 27704
(919) 479-0501**

Email: jsmith9450@aol.com

EVANGELISM, cont. page 24

positive goodness. "Salvation is not a matter of laws and regulations, ceremonies and institutions. It is a redemptive fellowship with God."

Righteousness, peace, and good will must reign and Christ must occupy the throne. Salvation is a spiritual revolution. Salvation is God's answer to the sin problem.

¹ Walter A. Elwell, Editor. *Evangelical Dictionary of Theology*. (Baker Book Company, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49506), 380.

² Ibid, 14.

³ Ibid, 45.

⁴ Ibid

⁵ T. A. Kantonen, *Theology of Evangelism* (Philadelphia: Muhlenburg press, 1954), 3.

⁶ C. E. Autrey, *Basic Evangelism* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 1959) 16.

⁷ W. C. Bower, *Religion and the Good Life*, 142.

⁸ Edwin E. Aubrey, *Present Theological Tendencies* (New York: Harper & Brothers, 1936), 195.

⁹ C. E. Autrey, *Basic Evangelism*, (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 1959), 21.

GBSC UPCOMING SESSIONS 2003 - 2006

YEAR	CITY	HOST
MID-YEAR		
2004	Roxboro	Shady Hill
2005	Elizabeth City	St. Stephens
2006	Wilmington	Shiloh
2004 - July	All Baptist Assembly	Winston-Salem
ANNUAL		
2003	Charlotte	Ebenezer
2004	Salisbury	Mt. Zion Adjourn Session
2005	Asheville	Mt. Zion
2006	Raleigh	Martin Street
TRINITY SESSION		
2003	Charlotte	Second Calvary
2005	Fayetteville	Union Association
2006	Reidsville	Zion
EVANGELISM CONFERENCE		
2004	Greensboro	East White Oak
2005	Charlotte	Chappell Memorial
2006	Winston-Salem	Galilee Missionary

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COOKS CHAPEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH, Warrenton, NC – We the pastoral search committee of Cooks Chapel Missionary Baptist Church are currently searching for a full-time Pastor to lead us in our walk with Christ. We are seeking an individual who is an ordained minister by the Association, specifically called by God, able to preach, teach and train, knowledgeable of the scriptures, have biblical training from a credited school of Divinity and obtain a certificate, teach Bible Study and Sunday School, attend workshops given by the Association, family oriented and a committed follower of Jesus Christ. We are praying for applicants with an

authentic personal faith in Christ. **Deadline for submitting applications is December 31, 2003.** If you are interested, please send all resumes to: **Cooks Chapel Missionary Baptist Church**
c/o Pastoral Search Committee
P. O. Box 271
Warrenton, North Carolina 27589

NEW RED MOUNTAIN MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH, Rougemont, NC – The Pulpit Committee of New Red Mountain Missionary Baptist Church is accepting resumes for the position of pastor. The church is affiliated with The East Cedar Grove Baptist Association. **Interested persons must possess the following qualifications:**
Licensed, Ordained Baptist Minister
Ability to preach/teach and have administrative skills
Knowledge of Baptist doctrine, policies, and procedures
Strong leadership qualities
Ability to work with all age groups within the church
Interest in the spiritual and intellectual growth of the church
Theological and/or Seminary training
Minimum of a Bachelor's degree
Interest in the family and community

Ability to plan and implement Christian education opportunities for the membership
Teach Bible Study and attend Sunday School
In addition to resume, please submit the following documents:
Copies of ministerial license and ordination certificate
At least three references: business, personal, and pastoral/religious
Deadline date for resumes will be January 31, 2004.
Send information to:
New Red Mountain Missionary Baptist Church
C/o Pulpit Committee
Attn: Deacon Raymond N. Paris

**P. O. Box 88
Rougemont, NC 27572**

BELTON CREEK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH – Oxford, North Carolina is currently accepting resumes for the position of pastor. Belton Creek is affiliated with the United Shiloh Missionary Baptist Association. Interested persons should possess the following qualifications:
Born again Christian
Ordained pastor with pastoral experience
Mature, sensible, well-balanced, and self-controlled
Committed to Baptist Doctrines and policies

GILL CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH • PASTORAL SEARCH

Gill Creek Baptist Church of Columbia, South Carolina is seeking to fill the position of Pastor. Gill Creek is situated in a diverse, predominately African American neighborhood. The church maintains a child development and after school program. The congregation is diverse in terms of educational, professional and social experiences; and willing to carry out the Lord's work. The Pastor is the spiritual leader with support from the deacons and trustees.

The ideal candidate should possess the following: A commitment to Jesus Christ and the Church, College and Seminary degree (AATS/SACS accredited) and Strong interpersonal skills.

The ideal candidate should be able to: Assume responsibility for oversight of all functions associated with the church and daycare center, Develop coalitions with other churches in the community to work together on common issues.

This list is certainly not inclusive, but serves as a snapshot of what we expect of a pastor as we build Gill Creek Baptist Church into a church that will serve all of God's children.

The interested candidates may obtain more detailed information by contacting:
Chairman: Dea. Willie Grier (803) 699-1481; Vice Chairperson: Mrs. Barbara Brown (803) 754-7892

Mail resumes to: Gill Creek Baptist Church, 2116 Cushman Drive, Columbia, SC 29204, (803) 754-6616.

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I have built and designed more than 45 churches in my 55 years of general contracting.

Church building should be compatible with their neighborhoods. The quality of construction, design, and landscaping should create a meaningful setting which is an inspiration to its members and the community.

When you consult with me, my first step is a detailed inquiry of the various programs at your church. This enables me to understand the main focus of your ministry and it helps you understand my services. Our first meeting is to get acquainted and find out your needs.

The second step is providing a master plan of your entire church property and renderings or models of the proposed buildings.

The third step is preparing your construction drawings which include:

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3. Design plans
4. Structural design
5. Energy saving heating and cooling
6. Specifications (in laypersons language)

I have found that coordinating all of these design phases through one firm avoids costly delays, misunderstanding and mistakes during constructions.

There are many phases in church planning and design which require a specialist in that field. When you start your next building program, I hope you will give me a call.

At Your Service,
Thomas L. Jones

PULPIT VACANCY

NEW LIGHT MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH HALLSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA

NEW LIGHT MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH IS NOW ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR A PASTOR. OUR WORSHIP SERVICES ARE EACH SUNDAY OF THE MONTH.

QUALIFICATIONS:

Must be a licensed ordained Missionary Baptist Minister.

- Full of Holy Ghost. Led by the Spirit of God in all matters.
- Full of wisdom, knowledge and understand the office of Pastor and performs it according to the scriptures and the needs of the church.
- Must be Association minded.
- Prefer having experience as a Pastor.
- The husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behavior.
- One that rules his own house, having a good report.
- Knows the doctrine of a Missionary Baptist Church
- Must attend meetings of different auxiliaries in the church to become familiar with the organizations, whenever possible.
- Must visit the sick and shut-in when possible.
- Must attempt to become involved with the various programs that the church participates in outside the home church calendar.

Send resumes and inquiries to:

Deacon Kenneth Bracey
1025 Red Bug Rd.
Hallsboro, North Carolina 28442
910-646-4467

CLASSIFIEDS

Pastor should demonstrate the fruits of the spirits, Christ-like and devoted to God
Willingness to work with all components of the church
Good teacher, preacher, and counselor
Good Reputation
Proven Christian service; not a novice or new convert
Family person and manages household well
Willingness to teach Sunday School
Possess strong leadership skills and the ability to promote church programs

Please mail resumes and letters of refer-

ence(s) to:

Belton Creek Missionary Baptist Church
P. O. Box 1164
Oxford, North Carolina 27565
Attn: Deacon William Cozart
Chairman Pulpit Ministry

NAZARETH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH, Wagram, North Carolina – is currently accepting resumes for a Pastor.

Pastoral Qualifications and Duties:

A Born-again Christian
Licensed, ordained Baptist Minister

Five years of pastoral experience preferred
Serve as Senior Pastor
College degree – Some theological/seminary courses completed and training ongoing
Concerned with the spiritual and intellectual growth of the church
Ability to preach and teach God's Word
Must be willing to teach and follow the Baptist Doctrines, policies, and practices
Ability to carry out administrative, leadership, and counseling duties
Ability to work with all age groups in the church
Work cooperatively with church officials
Family and community-oriented
Teach Bible Study and attend Sunday School and prayer meetings
Good communication skills
Must be a good role model of moral and ethical conduct
All interested applicants should send a resume, personal references, and/or any other relevant information to:
Nazareth Missionary Baptist Church
The Pulpit Committee
Attn: Deacon Harold Pipkin
Post Office Box 481
Wagram, North Carolina 28396

MOUNT OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH, Albuquerque, New Mexico
– The oldest Black Baptist church in New Mexico (an affiliate of The National Baptist Convention USA, Inc.) is currently seeking an experienced, born again, Bible believing ordained minister who is excellent with interpersonal relationships. All candidates must provide a proven record of active participation in their District Association, State and National Convention. A proven record of growth and development of ministries at your previous/present church is required. All educational and personal experience that is spiritually based will be considered. A strong belief in Baptist doctrine, i.e., "The Articles of Faith" and the two ordinances: "Baptism by Immersion" and "The Lord's Supper" is a must. All interested candidates should forward a resume to **Mt. Olive Baptist Church**, Attn: Search Committee Chairman, 2401 University Blvd. SE, Albuquerque, NM 87106. (505) 242-8331 (voice mail) and (505) 242-6244 (fax).

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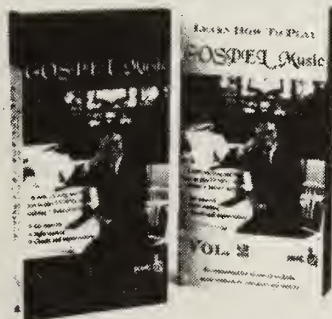
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Greetings! The General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina is available to work with your church during the time you do not have a Pastor. We will work with the Deacons and other officers to provide guidance as you search for a new pastor to lead your church.

Some of the things we offer:

- We have ordained Baptist ministers available to assist the Deacons in carrying out the Church Ordinances: Lord Supper and Baptism.
- We have ordained clergy who can serve as an "Interim Minister" in your church.
- Some suggested workshops:

- ✓ How To Select An Interim Pastor?
- ✓ How To Call A Pastor?
- ✓ How Much Should We Pay Our Pastor?
- ✓ Church Administration
- ✓ How To Plan A Church Budget
- ✓ Effective Bible Study
- ✓ Evangelism Classes
- ✓ Special Training For Deacons/Trustees
- ✓ Christian Education Planning
- ✓ Church Development

Please call if you are interested in any of these services!

1-800-639-GBSC (4272)

CLASSIFIEDS

ZION GROVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH, Aulander, North Carolina, is seeking a Pastor. We are accepting resumes from interested ordained Missionary Baptist Ministers. Please forward your resume to **Deacon Haywood Harrell, Zion Grove Missionary Baptist Church, Post Office Box 611, Ahoskie, North Carolina 27910.**

MALABY'S CROSSROADS MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH is now accepting resumes for a pastor. The ideal applicant must:

- be an ordained and licensed Missionary Baptist preacher,
- have an in-depth knowledge of and belief in Baptist doctrine,
- be led by the Holy Spirit,
- have at least 5 years experience as a minister (preferred),
- live a sincere Christian life,
- have strong, positive family values,
- be either currently enrolled in or have completed seminary training,
- have strong preaching and teaching ability,
- have a humble spirit, and

•attend all worship, Bible Study, and Sunday School sessions.

Interested applicants should mail packets containing resumes and the names and addresses of 3 references to the following address: **Malaby's Crossroads Missionary Baptist Church, c/o The Pulpit Committee, P. O. Box 648, Knightdale, NC 27545.**

WHITE'S CHAPEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH - Speed, NC, is currently accepting applications for a pastor with strong Missionary Baptist roots. The church is affiliated with the Old Eastern Missionary Baptist Association and the General Baptist State Convention of N.C. Interested applicants should provide the following:

Resume (including pastor experiences and educational qualifications)

A copy of religious credentials (license/ordination)

At least two personal references (no family)

Send information to: **Deacon Joe W. Dickens, Jr., Chairman, Pastor Search Committee, White's Chapel Missionary**

Baptist Church, P. O. Box 296, Speed, NC 27881.

RISING STAR BAPTIST CHURCH, Walnut Cove, NC, is accepting applications for the position of pastor. Interested applicants should send resumes to the Pulpit Search Committee at P. O. Box 966, Walnut Cove, NC 27052.

LINCOLN HEIGHTS MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH - Cincinnati, Ohio, is seeking a full-time senior pastor. We are a suburban congregation of 1,500 members who attract a diverse membership from surrounding suburbs and the Greater Cincinnati area. We seek an experienced pastor who is committed to carrying out our mission of evangelizing, equipping and empowering through preaching, teaching and ministering to our congregation. Demonstrated visionary leadership, strong commitment to family

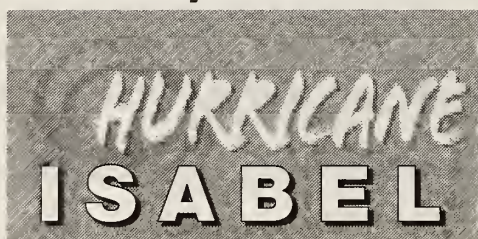
care (including youth and senior ministries), community outreach and building strong ministries and leadership teams are desirable. Seminary degree or equivalent education is desirable, also.

If you feel God is leading you to this calling, please send inquiries or resumes to: **Pastoral Search Committee, c/o Ulysses Rhea, 9991 Wayne Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45215; phone (513) 722-5422; fax (513) 552-3652.**

HAYNES GROVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH - Cliffside, NC is currently accepting applications for a pastor. Interested applicants should respond to:

**Haynes Grove Missionary Baptist Church
Attn: Deacon Eli Smith
Pulpit Committee
P.O. Box 651
Cliffside, N.C. 28024**

GENERAL BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION responds to



From GBSC President Dr. Charles T. Bullock

Blessings and Peace! Thursday, September 18, 2003, Hurricane Isabel caused great damages to Northeast North Carolina. We lost several GBSC Churches and many families are still without power. Dr. Thurman B. Everett, Executive Secretary-Treasurer Logan, Rev. Dennis Brown and I traveled to the affected area, September 24, 2003. We took a truck & van load of water and food supplies to Murfreesboro, Ahoskie and Windsor, N.C.

Three GBSC Associations have set up centers in the affected areas to respond to the crisis. The distribution centers are: North Hampton County Association, Nebo Baptist Church, Murfreesboro, N.C., Moderator Robert Holloman, 252-332-2738; West Roanoke Association, Moderator Ralph White, 252-794-9173, 242-794-4974; Roanoke Association, Moderator Ricky Banks, 252-335-5033, 252-339-3438; New Ahoskie Baptist Church, Rev. Patrick Young, Pastor, 252-332-4357, 252-347-2330 and Oxley Hill Missionary Baptist Church, Rev. Vonner G. Horton, Pastor, 252-4820-8476, 252-482-3179.

We are a faith community and believe that God is Able to bless in any situation. We know that together we can overcome this tragedy and disaster. We will look to God, God is our strength and strong arm of protection: Read, PSALM 27. We ask that our churches and prayer teams continue in special prayer for the recovery of those affected by Hurricane Isabel. If you or your congregation want to help PLEASE make contributions and send food and water to the centers directly. Please respond as soon as possible.

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North Carolina, Auxiliary to GBSC

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The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord; but the prayer of the upright is his delight. (Proverbs 15:8)

Confess your faults to one another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. (James 5:16)

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CHAPEL HILL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH – Autryville, NC: seeks a pastor to serve as its spiritual leader, teacher, counselor, and administrator. Some requirements are as followed:

- Must be born-again as evidenced by character and dedication
- Licensed, ordained Baptist minister
- Ability to preach/teach and have administrative skills
- Five years of pastoral experience preferred
- Some theological courses completed, and continuing
- Knowledge of Baptist doctrine, policies and procedures
- A resume, letter of interest, including a vision statement of their ministry
- Legible copies of ministerial license and ordination certification
- References: Include name, address and phone number, (1) Family reference, (1) Business reference, (1) Professional reference and (2) references from pastors

familiar with your character and ministry
• Other criteria will be discussed during interviews

Please mail any applications/resumes and/or related material to:

Chapel Hill Missionary Baptist Church
Attn: Deacon Bobby R. McAllister
1450 Sivertsen Road
PO Box 434
Autryville, NC 28318-8064
Ph.: (910) 567-2961

BUNCOMBE BAPTIST CHURCH – Lexington, NC: accepting resumes from interested licensed ordained Missionary Baptist ministers.

Qualifications:

- Born again Christian
- Concerned with spiritual and intellectual growth of the church
- Ability to preach and teach God's Word
- Must be willing to teach and follow the Baptist Doctrines, policies and practices
- Ability to work with all age groups in the

church

- Ability to carry out administrative, leadership and counseling duties
- Work cooperatively with church officials
- Family and community oriented
- Teach Bible Study and attend Sunday School and prayer meetings
- Theological and/or Seminary training preferred
- Good communications skills
- Must be a good role model of moral and ethical conduct

Please send resumes and inquiries to: Buncombe Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1533, Lexington, NC 27293.

SHADY GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

– East Spencer, NC: currently accepting applications for a Pastor with strong Missionary Baptist roots. Interested applicants should provide the following:

1. A resume
2. at least four references: (2) business (2) personal
3. A copy of religious credentials: License/Ordination

Send information to:

Shady Grove Baptist Church
ATTN: Clarence A. Jones, Chairperson
PO Box 447
East Spencer, NC 28039

HOPPERS CHAPEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH – Shelby, NC: now accepting resumes for the position of pastor. Potential candidates must be a born again Christian with strong Baptist roots. Hoppers Chapel is a member of the Ebenezer Baptist Association. All applicants must possess the following qualifications.

- Must be ordained and licensed
 - Must have at least 1 yr. Pastoral experience
 - Must provide credentials of theological training
 - Must be an effective teacher and counselor
 - Must possess extensive knowledge of Baptist Doctrine
 - Provide a mission statement for the church
 - Live in close proximity to the church
- The applicant must have the ability to plan and implement a growth strategy for both the spiritual and physical growth of the church.

Send all resumes to:

Hoppers Chapel Missionary Baptist Church
C/O Pulpit Committee
415 West Graham St.
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BASIC REQUIREMENTS FOR SERVICE:

1. Born-again Christian, Spirit-filled, and divinely gifted in music ministry.
2. Willingness to spiritually align the music ministry with Pastoral vision.
3. Able to play the piano, keyboard and/or organ; able to read music and versatile.
4. Able to prepare choirs for Sunday morning worship services and other services.
5. Able to teach, as, well as direct choirs, with humility and love.
6. Able to rehearse with all choirs on schedule, and available for all Sunday services.
7. Able to accompany Pastor and choirs to other services as required (or ensure qualified substitute is available).
8. Able to select appropriate hymns and songs for worship.

NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH – Gates, NC, is seeking a person to serve as Minister of Music.

Requirements:

Able to play organ, piano or keyboard
Able to play diverse music
Able to accompany the pastor and choir to church engagements if possible
Salary Negotiable. Inquiries may be made by calling (252) 357-1061 after 4:30 p.m. Send resume to:
New Hope Baptist Church
Post Office Box 91
Gatesville, NC 27938
Attn: Church Secretary

MINISTER OF MUSIC, FULL-TIME. EBENEZER MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH, Wadesboro, NC

Born-again Christian, Spirit-filled
Ability to read music and versatile
Willingness to align the music ministry with Pastoral vision
Ability to prepare choirs for Sunday morning worship services and other services
Ability to teach, as well as direct choirs, with humility and love

Ability to accompany Pastor and choirs at various engagements
Other duties as outlined
Please send resume to:
Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church
c/o Dr. W. W. Williams
612 Salisbury Street
Wadesboro, NC 28170

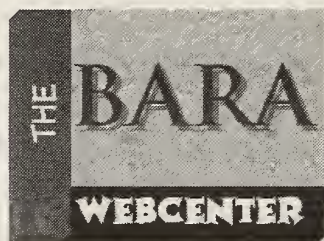
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - RALEIGH, NC is seeking a full time Minister of Music at it's location at 101 South Wilmington Street in Raleigh, NC. First Baptist Church is a historical black congregation organized at the North Carolina State House (now the Capitol) in 1812. This historical congregation seeks an individual who is willing to grow with its Pastor, Dr. Dumas A. Harshaw, Jr. and his flock. This position requires a music

and worship leader who is spiritual and experienced in providing the total awareness of the movement of God's spirit in the assembly of God's people.

Principal Function: The Minister of Music at First Baptist Church is responsible to the Pastor and is supervised by the Pastor for the development and promotion of the entire music program.

Duties and Responsibilities: The duties and responsibilities are as follows:

1. Direct Planning, organizing, conducting, and evaluating of a comprehensive music ministry.
2. Supervise the work of paid or volunteer music staff.
3. Cooperate with the church process to enlist and train leaders for the church music ministry, including choir workers, song leaders, and accompanists for the



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5. At the end of each session, a compiled typed copy, sent to the president one week after the session is closed.

The person must be committed to the above requirements.

Please send a brief resume to:

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church worship experiences.

4. Lead in planning and promoting a choir program, direct and coordinate the work of choir directors.

5. Arrange and provide music for weddings, funerals, special projects, ministries, and other church-related activities upon request.

6. Plan, organize, and promote choir tours, mission trips, camps, festivals, workshops, clinics, and programs for the various choirs.

7. Develop and supervise a music library, and maintain materials, supplies, musical instruments and other equipment.

8. Keep informed on music methods, materials, promotion, and administration through continuing education and attending music workshops.

9. Prepare an annual music budget and manage the approved budget.

10. Assist the pastor in planning all services of worship, coordinate the music program with the church calendar and emphasize the church vision.

11. Lead in the development of a music academy.

12. Perform other duties as assigned by the pastor.

ST. JAMES BAPTIST CHURCH - Greensboro, NC: Seeks Minister of Music with the following requirements:

- Born-again Christian, Spirit-filled, divinely gifted in music ministry
 - Willingness to spiritually align the music ministry with Pastoral vision
 - Ability to play piano, keyboard and/or organ, ability to read music and versatile
 - Ability to prepare choirs for Sunday morning worship service and other services
 - Ability to teach, as well as direct choirs, with humility and love
 - Ability to rehearse with all choirs on schedule, and available for all Sunday services.
 - Ability to accompany Pastor and choirs to other services as required (or assure qualified substitute is available)
 - Ability to select appropriate hymns and songs for worship
 - Has the God given ability to work with diverse groups and personalities.
 - Preferably a degree in music
 - Must be trustworthy, punctual, and fair in all of service to the congregation
- Duties include: Be prepared for worship

service and rehearsals; Be on time for worship service and rehearsals; Make sure instruments are in good condition at all times for performances; Have immediate access to "Baptist Hymnals" at all times; Be receptive to spontaneous input of members; Have cordial spirit in presenting rehearsal strategy; Be flexible in presentation; Be mindful of time; Adjust accordingly; Try to be available for engagements representing St. James outreach ministry; Implement new strategies and methods gradual, so growth can be achieved. All applicants send resume to: St. James Baptist Church
Attention Rev. King
and Music Committee
536 West Florida Street
Greensboro, NC 27406

MINISTER OF MUSIC WANTED
SPRINGFIELD BAPTIST CHURCH - Stanley, NC:

- A Spirit-filled leader - skilled in the Word
- Child of God
- Faithful and committed to God's program
- The gift to play by ear with or without the accompaniment of other musicians
- Has the ability to read and teach music
- Plays versatile music - which includes hymns, spirituals, contemporary gospel and praise songs
- Available to accompany the pastor and choirs to other churches when and as needed
- Available for all rehearsals and Sunday Worship service

Please contact: Melissa Fanning - (H) 704-563-3230 or Pastor Theodore Armstrong - Church 704-263-4426

MINISTER OF MUSIC NEEDED - Wake Forest, NC: congregation seeks musician. 1) The duties include working directly with the Pastor in order to assist and cooperate with him in Christian Worship, 2.) Playing during Sunday morning worship service, 3.) Rehearsing with various choirs one night per week, 4.) And accompanying the Pastor on engagements to other churches. Please forward a cover letter and resume to: Evans Grove Missionary Baptist Church
12700 Creedmoor Road
Highway 50
Wake Forest, NC 27587
(919) 870-8874

MINISTER OF MUSIC VACANCY:
THE SPRING GREEN MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH - Warrenton, NC: seeks a Minister of Music to provide musical direction and accompaniment for 4 choirs in the church. This person will work closely with the Pastor to provide spiritual leadership in the ministry of Jesus Christ through music, i.e. hymns, spiritual songs, and praise and worship music that glorifies God.

We are accepting resumes from candidates with the appropriate qualifications. (Specific qualifications listed in beginning of staff musician section.)

For additional information please send inquiry or resume to:
Spring Green Missionary Baptist Church



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Rev. Dennis G. Lindsay, Pastor

CHURCH MUSICIAN VACANCY:
FIRST MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH – Selma, NC: seeks musician for youth choir. Must be a Christian with good character.

Requirements:

- Play the organ and piano
- Able to play sacred and gospel music
- Read music and have the ability to play by ear

Send resume to:

Reverend S. Manfred Isom, Pastor
415 Star Ruby Drive
Knightsdale, NC 27545

MINISTER OF MUSIC NEEDED:
THE PENN AVENUE MOUNT OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH

Lewiston, NC: seeking a musician for a station church, a Christian, who is responsible, has good character and a good reputation.

Requirements:

- *Plays the organ and piano
- *Able to work with a diverse group of singers
- *Experienced in all sacred music
- *Reads music and is versatile in playing by ear

Send resumes or responses to:
Mount Olive Baptist Church
PO Box 214

Lewiston-Woodville, NC 27849
Attention: William W. Peele, Jr.

MINISTER OF MUSIC WANTED:
THE PENN AVENUE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH – Oxford, NC: currently seeking a Minister of Music.

QUALIFICATIONS:

(Specific qualifications listed in beginning of staff musician section.)

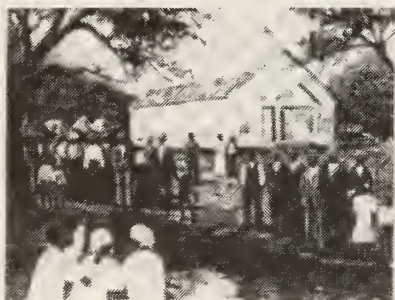
- Will be responsible with the pastor's approval in hiring other musicians if deemed necessary. Salary: Negotiable Sunday worship services. Service begins each Sunday at 11 a.m. with the exception of 5th Sunday services which begin at 10 a.m. Please send resume to the above listed address or inquiries may be made by calling one of the above listed numbers.

CHURCH MUSICIAN NEEDED – Warren County, NC: Knowledge of music and the ability to play by ear is appreciated. Presently, morning worship service is held every fourth (4th) Sunday, but we are considering an additional Sunday for services. Must be able to play for youth choir and adult choir. Church is located in Warren County, North Carolina. For further information, please call: (252) 257-0221

CHURCH MUSICIAN: THE CEDAR GROVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH – Gibson, NC: seeking a person to serve as Church Musician. Qualifications: (Specific qualifications listed in beginning of staff musician section.) Salary negotiable. Please send resume to Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Church at this address. Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Church

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CHURCH MUSICIAN:
THE FRIENDSHIP MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH - High Point, NC: accepting resumes for a Church Musician. Qualifications: (Specific qualifications listed in beginning of staff musician section.) Salary negotiable.
715 West Willis Ave.
High Point, NC 27260

JEFFRIES CROSS BAPTIST CHURCH - Burlington, NC:
Send cover letter and resume to Jeffries Cross Baptist Church, 2015 Jeffries Cross Rd., Burlington, NC 27217. Phone: 336-226-9626. We are currently seeking a musician who will work directly with the pastor to provide spiri-

tual leadership in the music ministry. Qualifications: 1. A Christian with piano, keyboard, organ ability; read music, play chords, teach harmony, direct choirs, conduct two rehearsals per month with four choirs, accompany pastor on engagements, accommodate traditional and contemporary worship styles.

CHURCH MUSICIAN - Hope Mills, NC: Swans Creek Missionary Baptist Church, North Carolina. Qualifications:
*A Spirit-filled leader - devinely gifted in music ministry
*Willingness to align the music ministry with Pastoral vision
*Able to play piano, keyboard; able to read music and play by ear
*Able to prepare choirs for morning worship service and other services

*Able to rehearse with all choirs on a regular basis and available for all Sunday services

*Accompany Pastor and choirs to other services

Please contact or send resume to: 2404 Swans Creek Church Rd., Hope Mills, NC 28348 (910)323-4595

MINISTER OF MUSIC NEEDED - Henderson, NC: congregation seeking a full-time minister of music, who will be responsible for directing, managing, and developing all functions and aspects associated with planning and implementing a comprehensive Church Music Ministry. Must be available for all worship services and practices.
Send resumes or responses to:
St. James MBC, P.O. Box 2205, Henderson, NC 27536. Attention: William H. Clayton, II Senior Pastor.

related management skills. Ability to utilize excellent written and oral communication skills.

Ability to delegate, motivate, train and incorporate the many talents and skills of God's people.

Assist the Pastor in the evaluating of organizations, auxiliaries and ministries of the church to ensure continuous improvement toward meeting our mission statement.

Familiar with various software programs designed for church administration use.

Proficient in the use of Microsoft Office Products such as Word, PowerPoint, Excel.

Must have 3 - 5 years experience in church administration. Dedication to excellence and service with church related work, while maintaining the highest level of professionalism.

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Mr. Chris Wright, 7111 Ludwig Drive
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CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR
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Previous supervisory experience or



For Sale

CHURCH PEWS FOR SALE. Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church, Barbee Rd., Morrisville, NC has church pews for sale. There are fifteen (15) 8-ft. pews and twenty-seven (27) 6-ft. pews. All inquiries should be directed to Rev. McArthur Pettiford at (336) 570-9111, Trustee Herbert Barbee at (919) 469-3174 / (919) 274-6696 or Trustee Anthony Holland at (919) 474-3186 / (919) 454-6378.

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First Baptist Church

910-483-8505 or

Ms. Nikki Massey 910-672-1172

J.J. JOHNSON BAPTIST ASSEMBLY INFORMATION

The Site:

The J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly is a tract of land comprising seventy-five (75) or more acres, much of which is covered with a mixture of North Carolina Pine, red and white oak trees. The location of the Baptist Assembly is on more than 75 rolling acres in Laurel Hill, North Carolina in Scotland County.

In 1967, approximately two-thirds of the acreage was donated by Dr. and Mrs. Joy J. Johnson and their daughter, Deborah (Mrs. Alexander Killiens). Additional acres were purchased by the Woman's Convention and General Baptist State Convention.

Our Purpose:

The purpose of the J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly in Laurel Hill is to provide a setting that is Christian in its atmosphere and is conducive to learning, worship, and meeting the needs of all individuals whom we serve. It seeks to provide opportunities for everyone to learn habits of good citizenship, and it provides at the same time opportunities to reach a maximum potential for Christian fellowship and fun experiences through democratic ideals and living.

The facility exists for the exclusive use by religious groups and/or organizations with similar aims regardless of ethnic origin.

Meeting Facilities:

At the J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly, there are various meeting facilities available. Listed below are the seating capacity (theater style) and lodging:

◆ Rowan Association Chapel	Seating Capacity: 300-400
◆ Horne Lodge	Seating Capacity: 20-25, Sleeps 12
◆ Alston Lodge	Seating Capacity: 100, Sleeps 64
◆ Lumber Bridge Association Lodge	Seating Capacity: 100, Sleeps 64
◆ Brown Assembly Dining Hall (Cafeteria Style)	Seating Capacity: 200

Individuals should bring their own linen, blankets, soap and other toiletries for the lodging facilities.

Current Annual Events

During the course of the year, the Conventional Family sponsors different ministries at the J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly. Among these are the following:

- ◆ Vacation Bible School (GBSC) – March
- ◆ Ministers' Wives Retreat (WBSC) – May
- ◆ Laymen's League Mini-Skills Retreat (GBSC) – May
- ◆ Leadership Training Conference (GBSC) – June
- ◆ Youth Bible Camp (WBSC) – June
- ◆ Laymen's League Boy's Summer Retreat (GBSC) – July
- ◆ Laymen's League Scouting Jamboree (GBSC) – August
- ◆ Laymen's League Men's Retreat (GBSC) – September
- ◆ North Carolina Branch of the 9th and 10th Calvary (Buffalo Soldiers) – October
- ◆ Usher's Retreat/Workshop (GBSC) – November
- ◆ Laymen's League Planning Session – December

The campus is available year round for meetings, weddings, banquets, family reunions, and other activities. Contact Rev. Eric Harris for the policies and procedures regarding each type of event.

*"And gathered them out of the lands, from the east,
and from the west, from the north, and from the south."*

Psalm 107:3

Send Applications & Funds to:
General Baptist State Convention
J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly
603 S. Wilmington Street
Raleigh, NC 27601

(Make checks payable to J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly)

Sources: "1974" Brochure and the J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly Guide And Handbook (1985).

MOUNT ZION FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH 320 W. Thomas Street • Rocky Mount, NC 27801

This is an appeal to any members, former members, friends and/or acquaintances of the Mt. Zion First Baptist Church, Rocky Mount, NC.

We, the Archives and History Auxiliary, would like to obtain copies of photos of all former pastors of Mt. Zion in an effort to honor these men of God with a Pastoral Gallery. We would like to dedicate the Gallery during our church's anniversary in November.

Anyone who has photos of former pastors and is willing to share them, please contact the church office (252-442-1627) weekdays between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. We need photos of the following pastors: *1st pastor* - Cain Gibbs; *2nd* - Cain Barnes; *3rd* - George Norwood; *4th* - George Smith; *5th* - Simon Hicks; *6th* - Daniel Martin; *9th* - Nathaniel Marriot; *10th* - R.A. Morrissey; and *14th* - Rev. Hunter

Anyone who would like to send a copy of a photograph, please do so by mailing it to the above address, to the attention of Mrs. Nancy Gary Joyner, President of the Archives and History Auxiliary.

Thank You and God Bless!

Scholarships WILLIAM LOUIS POTEAT

For freshman students who are active members of a North Carolina Baptist Church and who have the promise of making a significant contribution to church and society.

✓ **Deadline for applying to Wake Forest University
and for the Poteat Scholarship is December 15.**

Information and applications are available through the
University website: www.wfu.edu or

The Poteat Program Office

P.O. Box 7233 • Winston-Salem, NC 27109 • 336.758.5255

A significant merit scholarship actively seeking to honor the University's Baptist heritage and to aid students with demonstrated financial need.

"From Bondage To Abundance!"

By Archie D. Logan, Jr., Executive Secretary-Treasurer

The General Baptist Foundation offers every Pastor and his or her local church a "Covenant of Care Plan". This plan can be individually customized to meet every budget. It contains insurance for life, short and long term disability, and long-term care. Take a look at the example below and

then call the Foundation to get your plan started today. contact the Foundation toll-free at 1 (866) 687-4631 or 1-866-OURGOD1 and ask for a representative to explain the details.

Call the GBF, Inc., for more information on this and other programs that will help your congregation and pastor.

Benefit	Monthly Contribution	Annual Contribution	Covenant Partners
Short Term Disability (1)	\$24.76	\$297.12	Unum Provident Insurance
Long Term Disability (2)	\$21.18	\$254.16	Unum Provident Insurance
Life Insurance (3)	\$52.39	\$628.68	Unum Provident Insurance
Dependent Life (4)	\$4.00	\$48.00	Unum Provident Insurance
Long Term Care (5)	\$60.17	\$722.04	Unum Provident Insurance
Total	\$197.50*	\$2,370.00	

*\$35 monthly administrative fee included in pricing.

- 7-day elimination period for sickness or accident. Benefit Period 12 weeks up to a maximum of 60%/\$1000 weekly
- 90-day elimination period for sickness or accident. Benefit period to age 65 up to a maximum of 60%/\$3000 monthly.
- \$50,000 guaranteed renewable term-life policy. Coverage is reduced to \$32,500 at age 65 and then, \$25,000 at age 70+.
- \$25,000 guaranteed renewable term life policy for spouse. Coverage is reduced to \$16,250 at age 65 and then, \$12,500 at age 70+. ** Children: Live Birth to 6 months = \$1,000, 6 months to 19 years (26-yrs. If full-time student) = \$2,000
- 3-year benefit period, \$2,000 facility/\$1,000 in home care, indemnity policy, \$72,000 maximum, can get extra coverage if needed.

ATTENTION: Pastors, Trustees, and Financial Committees

Mr. Dexter Perry and his staff have finance, loan, annuity and long-range planning programs that help build the stewardship foundations for your church. Also ask them about the

General Baptist Annuity Gift Program we are doing through North Carolina Mututal Insurance Company. One telephone call will make a blessed difference in your church Ministry. ■

If You Begin At Age	Monthly Pretax Deposits	At Age 65 You will Have Deposited	At Age 65 Your 403(b) Balance Will B
25	\$25.00	\$12,000.00	\$49,787.27
	\$50.00	\$24,000.00	\$99,574.54
	\$100.00	\$48,000.00	\$199,149.07
35	\$25.00	\$9,000.00	\$25,112.88
	\$50.00	\$18,000.00	\$50,225.75
	\$100.00	\$36,000.00	\$100,451.50
45	\$200.00	\$72,000.00	\$200,903.01
	\$50.00	\$12,000.00	\$23,102.04
	\$100.00	\$24,000.00	\$46,204.09
55	\$200.00	\$48,000.00	\$92,408.18
	\$300.00	\$72,000.00	\$138,612.27
	\$50.00	\$6,000.00	\$8,193.97
65	\$100.00	\$12,000.00	\$16,387.93
	\$200.00	\$24,000.00	\$32,775.87
	\$300.00	\$36,000.00	\$49,163.80
75	\$400.00	\$48,000.00	\$65,551.74

*Assumes an 6% rate of return annually plus reinvestment of all dividends and interest earned.

Taxes will be owed once 403(b) distributions begin, however most individuals assume they will be in a more favorable tax bracket at retirement or able to take advantage of a special tax treatment associated with 403(b) plans called a five-year forward averaging. Professional tax counsel is advisable to determine if special tax treatment for lump sum distributions is available.

The General Baptist Foundation offers each affiliated church, bookkeeping services to small (0 to 150 members) and medium size churches (150 to 300 members). This assistance includes the following:

Description	# Of Checks Written	GBSC Member Cost	Non-GBSC Member Cost	
Bank Statement Reconciliation	30 or less each month	\$10.00 per week	\$15.00 per week	General Ledger
Financial Statement Preparation	Quarterly	No Charge (1)	No Charge (1)	Income and Expense Reports Only*
Accounting Software Installation on local church computer		\$249.00	\$349.00	Includes 1-Hour Of Training (2)

Balance Sheet Preparation Cost Is Determined On A Case-By-Case Basis.

- Included in the cost of the Bank Statement Reconciliation Service.
- No cost for mileage up to a 30-mile radius from Cary, NC. Cost after the 30-mile radius is calculated and \$1.00 per mile round trip.

If your church would like assistance in this matter, please contact the Foundation toll-free at 1(866) 687-4631 or 1-866-OURGOD1 and ask for a representative to explain the details.



"From Bondage To Abundance!"

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Church Name _____

Pastor _____

Church Address _____

Birhd Date ____ / ____ / ____ Gender: ☐ M ☐ F Salary \$ _____

Home Phone: () _____ Church Phone () _____

Email Address _____ Cell Phone _____

If you are intersted in any other type of coverage, please select below:

☐ Health Insurance ☐ Life Insurance ☐ Long Term Care Insurance ☐ Retirement

BAPTIST INFORMER:

EXPLORING THE WONDERS OF GOD'S GRACE

Gifts For A Special King

What would Christmas be like without the spirit of giving? In the Christmas story wise men brought gifts to the baby Jesus who was born king of the Jews?

Christmas, in my estimation, cannot be properly celebrated without giving gifts to Jesus. In the birth narrative remember the wise men opened their treasures and gave to baby Jesus gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, gifts that I see designed for a special king.

I think it would be so great this Christmas season if we gave those same gifts to Jesus given to him by the wise men. To some this might appear to be an impossible challenge, but let me explain how we can.

First, the gifts we bring to Jesus let them be pure from our hearts. Gold in the scripture signified purity and wealth. The size of the gift is never the most important thing, but rather the motive and the spirit in which the gift is given. Gifts given from the heart are gifts of pure gold.

Secondly, we can bring to Jesus gifts that

we desire ourselves. The frankincense the wise men brought to Jesus was a sweet-smelling incense. Frankincense was poured on the burnt offering. It caused the burnt offering to have a sweet-smelling odor. The sweet-smelling odor was extremely desirable and desired by all. Every person desires love. Since love is a gift that we desire ourselves, we can bring the gift of love to Jesus and humankind. Giving gifts that we desire ourselves are gifts of frankincense.

Lastly, we can give to Jesus gifts that are a representation of a resurrected life. Myrrh was an ornament that was used on the body of a dead person. We all were once living under the death of sin. But through grace, God has quickened us and made us alive by His Spirit. Subsequently, we can bring gifts that are a representation of a brand-new life free. Life that is free from the controlling power of sin. Gifts, we give, that are representations of a brand-new life are gifts of myrrh.

During the Christmas season and throughout the entire year, let us bring special gifts to Jesus who is a special king. Jesus is a special

king because most kings are born in a royal palace but Jesus was born in a manger. Jesus is a special king because most kings have servants but Jesus came to serve. Jesus is a special king because most kings have others to die for them, but Jesus came to die for the sins of the whole world. Jesus is a special king for when other kings die their power ceases, but when Jesus died, upon being raised from the dead, all powers were placed in his hand. May you become more aware of the wonderful blessings that God has bestowed upon your life during this holiday season.

- Editor



BAPTIST INFORMER

603 S. Wilmington Street
Raleigh, NC 27601
USPS 042-680

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